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THE DESTRUCTION AND PLUNDER OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC TREASURES, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR PUBLIC WELFARE, CHURCHES AND OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Trial Counsel: M. Y. R a g i n s k y .

I. Introduction.

May it please Your Honours,

Among the numerous and most grave war crimes committed by the Hitlerite conspirators, - crimes set out at length in the third Count of the Indictment-crimes against culture have a special place. In these crimes, all the abomination and vandalism of German fascism were expressed. The German fascists barbarously destroyed cultural values - books, libraries, historical monuments, museums and schools. They suppressed and perverted science.

Having in mind their single aim the preparation, initiation and waging of agressive wars, the Hitlerite conspirators made use of science also for their criminal purposes. The Hitlerites permitted and encouraged only the applied sciences, technically necessary for war, they used scionific knowledge for the mass extermination and mutilation of human beings.

The culture of the intellect and of humanity the Hitlerite conspirators regarded as an obstacle to the fulfilment of their monstrous designs against mankind. And they removed this obstacle with the cruelty typical of them.

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In working out their insane plans for world domination, the Hitlerite conspirators, side by side with the initiation and prosecution of predatory wars, prepared a campaign against world culture. They dreamt of putting Europe back to the time of the domination by the Huns and Teutons. They tried to send mankind backwards.

It is unnecessary to quote the numerous pronouncements of the Fascist ringleaders on this subject. I shall only permit myself to refer to one pronouncement of Hitler's quoted in Rauschning's book on page 83, which the Soviet prosecution has already presented to the Tribunal.

"We" said Hitler, "are barbarians, and we wish to be barbarians. That is an honourable title".

On behalf of the Soviet prosecution, I will present to the Tribunal evidence of how the defendants put into practice these orders of Hitler's, which found concrete expression in the wrecking of cultural institutions, the looting and destruction of cultural treasures and the strangling of the national cultural life of the peoples of the territories of the USSR, of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, occupied by the German-Fascist invaders.

I shall present to the Tribunal evidence of how the Hitlerites prepared and planned in advance the looting of cultural treasures, of how, long before the treacherous attack on the USSR, the so called "Einsatzstab Rosenberg" prepared for pillage, of how the predatory activity of the defendant Rosenberg was coordinated with Goering, Heydrich and the Supreme Command, and of how this pillage was disguised.

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It has now become generally known to what monstrous lies and provocacations the Hitlerites had recourse to camouflage their crimes.

While annihilating millions of people in the extermination camps they had set up, they spoke in their orders of "filtration" and "cleaming out".

While destroying and plundering cultural treasures, the Fascist vandals hid behind "the collection of materials" and " the study of problems", and shamelessly called themselves "the bearers of culture."

The Hitlerite conspirators tried to turn the peoples of the territories they seized into serfs without any rights and,for this purpose, destroyed the national culture of these peoples.

The destruction of the national cutures of the Slavonic peoples, in particular the Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian ones, the destruction of national monuments, schools and literature and the compulsory Germanisation the population, everywhere followed the German occupation with the same criminal regularity as did pillage, rape arson and mass murder too.

Your honours! Before going on to present the evidence, I am permitting myself to give a short description of the documents we are presenting in this section. They consist basically of four groups:

a) The communications and protocols of the Extraordinary State Commission for ascertaining and investigating the misdeeds of the German-Fascist usurpers, which was set up by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, dated the 2nd November 1942.

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This decree is presented to the court as USSR 34.

In the further exposition, the Commission named above will be called for short " the Ectraordinary State Commission,"

b) the published notes of the peoples Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V.M.Molotov;

c) the official reports and communications of the governments of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia;

d) a small number of German documents (orders, directives, decrees, official correspondence), found by units of the Red Army and by the armies of our allies when they liberated occupied territories.

The documents enumerated in "a","b" and "c" fully conform with the requirements of Article 21 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal and must therefore be accepted without proofs. These documents I shall quote not in full but in the relevant parts.

As regards the last group of documents, some have already been presented to the court by my American colleagues, but I must request the Tribunal to allow me to quote when necessary a few short extracts from these documents. It goes without saying that I shall resort to this in exceptional circumstances.

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II. The Organisation of the looting and destruction of cultural treasures..

As I have already indicated, the annihilation of the national culture of the peoples of the occupied territories was an organic part of the general plan of the Hitlerite conspirators to set up world domination.

It is difficult to determine which dominated in these plans - destructio or plunder. But there is no doubt of the fact that both the plunder and the destriction followed one goal, which was annihilation, and this annihilation was carried out everywhere, in all the territories occupied by the Germans and on a vast scale.

Article 56 of the Hague Convention of 1907 laid down:

" The property of municipalities, that of institutions dedicated to religion, charity and education, the arts and sciences, even when State property, shall be treated as private property.

All seizure of, destruction or wilful damage done to institutions of this character, historic monuments, works of art and science, is forbidden and should be made the subject of legal proceedings."

The Hitlerites systematically and consciously scoffed at the principles and demands laid down in article 56.

All the conspirators are guilty of this, and in the first place the defendant Rosenberg.

Rosenberg had an organisation with widespread ramifications for the plunder of cultural treasures, numerous staffs and representatives.

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"The Einsatzstab Rosenberg" and Rosenberg's chief of staff, Utikal, were the centre where all the threads met, a centre which coordinated the criminal activity of many predatory organisations, inspired and directed by the Hitlerite Government and the German Supreme Command.

Rosenberg was formally put in charge of plundering the cultural treasures in the occupied territories by a decree of Hitler's of the 1st March 1942.

I have in mind document No. 149-PS, presented to the Court on the 18th December 1945 by the American delegation and accepted as USA 369, from which I quote only 2 paragraphs:

"His (Rosenberg's) Einsatzstab for the right occupation territories has the right to explore libraries, archives, lodges, and other ideological and cultural establishments of all kinds for suitable material and to confiscate such material and for the ideological tasks of the N.S.D.A.P. ... [illegible]

The regulations for the execution of this task with the cooperation will be issued by the Chief of the High Command of the armed forces in agreement with Reichsleiter Rosenberg. If nessecary, measures for the eastern territories under German administration will be taken by Reichsleiter Rosenberg in his capacity as Reich Minister for occupied eastern territories."

This decree of Hitler's was sent out, as is clear from the document quoted, to all departments of the Armed Forces, the Party and the Government.

But it is not the 1st of March 1942 which should be considered the beginning of Rosenberg's predatory activities.

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In corroboration of this, I shall quote some extracts from a letter of Rosenberg to Reich Minister Bormann, dated the 23rd April 1941 and numbered 4609/R/ma (this document, No. 71-PS, was presented on the 18th December 1945 by the American delegation and accepted by the court as USA - 371). This document is also interesting for the fact that the plunder - entitled "confiscation" in the letter - was carried out by the defendant Rosenberg in close collaboration and contact, on the basis of a written agreement of Rosenberg's department, with Himmler's department.

I cite extracts from page 1 of the Russian translation of this letter:

"I have, wrote Rosenberg," transmitted to you a photostatic copy of my agreement with the Security Service (SD) which was reached with the express approval of Gruppenfuehrer HEYDRICH."

"...art objects have always been treated as a second line problem. In the first line an order of the chief of the high command of the Armed Forces (OKW) on the instigation of the Fuehrer has gone twice to the occupied territories of the west to place all scientific and archive materials of ideological opponents of the regime at my disposal for research purposes. That has resulted also in close cooperation on the widest scale with the Security Service (SD) and the military commanders."

The importance which the Hitlerite conspirators attached to Rosenberg's predatory staffs is shown by a special circular of Göring's of the 1st May 1941 to all Party, government and military institutions, which were ordered to cooperate with Rosenberg's Einsatz staffs.

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This document, numbered 144-PS, was presented by the American delegation on the 18th December 1945 and accepted by the Court under No. USA-384.

The scale of the pillage was already vast at this time. As Rosenberg indicates in his letter of the 23rd April 1941 (document USA 371), at that time, i.e. by April 1941, 7,000 cases of looted works of art had already been sent to Germany.

It is necessary to give another quotation from this letter (penultimate paragraph).

> "The things", wrote Rosenberg," are thus clarified in a practical fashion and the work has taken its course. What I asked was only a confirmation that the already pronounced decisions for the West should also have validity under the given circumstances for other occupied or to be occupied areas."

This document, in which pillage is called work, demonstrates without the possibility of doubt that Rosenberg's criminal activity was carried out in close contact with the S.D. and the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces and, finally, that, as early as April 1941, plans for plundering the territories about to be occupied were being elaborated.

After the speech of the Chief prosecutor from the USSR, General Rudenko and after the speech of the representative of the U.S. prosecution, Mr.Alderman, it is known what "territories about to be occupied" were meant at this period in Rosenberg's letter. This was the period of the practical realization of the criminal ideas of the Hitlerites, planned in the so called "Fall Barbarossa", this was the period of the swift transfer of the German-Fascist hordes to the frontiers of the Soviet Union, this was the period of the attack on the USSR.

It is necessary to point ont, finally, that in April 1941 the defendant Rosenberg placed Utikal at the head of all operational staffs, "the creation of which may become necessary during the course of this war". In this connection, Rosenberg alluded to the "successful work" of his operational staff in the Western occupied territories and the Netherlands, and to "the experience gained there".

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This circumstance is confirmed by a certificate issued to Utikal on the 1st April 1941 and signed by Rosenberg.

The authenticity of this document, which bears the number 143-PS, was confirmed by Rosenberg at his interrogation on the 26th September 1945.

In reporting on the organisation of the looting and destruction of cultural treasures, it is necessary to pause at yet one more department which combined diplomacy with pillage.

I have in mind the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Chief Prosecutor from the USSR, General Rudenko, showed, in his introductory speech, that the general pillage in the occupied regions of the USSR, carried out on the direct orders of the German Government, was directed not only by the Defendants Goering and Rosenberg, and the various "staffs" and "commands" subordinated to them. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, headed by the defendant Ribbentrop also participated in this, via a "special formation".

The creation of such a formation - the so-called "Ribbentrop batalion" - and its practical activity in the plunder of cultural treasures on the territory of the USSR, are testified to in his written testimony of the 10th November 1942 by Obersturmfuehrer Doctor Forster, taken prisoner by units of the Red Army in the Mozdok region.

In this testimony, Forster also indicated the tasks of Rosenberg's staff in the plunder, or, as he expressed it, in the confiscation of museum treasures and antiques.

I present a photostat of this testimony to the court as document No. USSR-157.

In his statement Forster said:

In August, 1941, during my stay in Berlin, I was transfered from the 87th Panzerjaeger (Tank Destroyers) to the Special Purpose Battalion through the help of my old acquaintance from Berlin University, Dr.Focke, who was employed in the press section of the Foreign Office.

This battalion had been activated on the initiation of the Reich Minister for Foreign Affairs Ribbentrop, and was under his command. The leader of the battalion is von Kuensberg, Major of the Waffen SS. The task of the Special Purpose Battalion was the transporting to Germany of cultural valuables and objects of great historical value immediately after the fall of large cities, their confiscation and securing, and the selection of valuable books and films.

The Special Purpose Battalion consists of 4 companies. The 1st Company is attached to German Expeditionary Corps in Africa, the 2nd Company is attached to the Army Group "North", the 3rd Company is attached to the Army. Group "Center" and the 4th Company to the Army Group "South". The 1st Company is located in Italy, at present in Naples, where they are anticipating the possibility of ferrying over to Africa.

The battalion headquaters are located in Berlin,Hermann-Goering-Strasse 10 b. The confiscated material is stored in the offices of the Adler firm, Herdenbergstrasse.

Prior to our departure for Russia, Major von Kuensberg transmitted from Ribbentrop, to us an order to "combout" painstakingly all scientific establishments, institutions, libraries, and palaces, to search all archieves, and to confiscate everything of importance and value.

It has become known to me from reports by my comrades, that the 2nd company of my battalion has confiscated many valuable objects in the palaces in the suburbs of Leningrad.

I myself was not there at the time.At ZARSKOJE SELO, the company confiscated and secured the contents of the large Catermuseum of the Carina Katherine.

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Chinese silk rugs and gilt, soiled decorations were torn from the walls. The foyer, which was supplied with artistic ornaments, was dismanteled and taken away. Antique furniture and a large library, containing approximately 6 - 7,000 books in the French language and more than 5,000 volumes and manuscripts in the Russian language were removed from the palace of the Emperor Alexander.

The 4th Company, where I was stationed, confiscated in Kiev the exhibit at the laboratory of the medicinal, scientific, research institute. The entire furnishings, scientific material, the documents and books were shipped to Germany.

We reaped a rich harvest in the library of the Ukrainian academy for science, where the greatest rarities in Persian, Abyssinian, Chinese scientific scripts, Russian and Ukrainian chronicles, the first editions of books by the 1st Russian printer, Ivan Fjodorow and rare editions of the volumes by Schewtschenko, Mizkiewitsch, Iwan Franko, were kept.

From the museum at Kiev, many exhibit articles which had been left behind, particularely the Ukrainian Art, Russian Art, Western and Eastern Art from central points were shipped to Berlin, amongst them paintings and portraits, works of art from Antokolksi, Wereschtschagin, Fjedotov, Gce and other works of Russian and Ukrainian painters and sculptors.

In the Korolenko Library in Kharkov several thousand expensive books in a very handsome edition were selected and brought to Berlin. The rest of the books were destroyed. From the Kharkov picture gallery several hundred pictures were secured, among them were 19 pictures from Aiwasowski, von Ruepin, many works from Polienow, Schischkin and others. Also all sculptures and the whole scientific archives of the museum were taken away. Embroidery, carpets, Gobelins and other exhibition pieces were appropriated by the German soldiers.

I also know, that the staff of Alfred Rosenberg used special commandos for the confiscation of

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expensive antique museum pieces in the occupied territories of the east and in the countries of Europe. Expert civilians were in charge of these Commandos.

After the occupation of a big city, leaders of these commandos arrive in the company of experts of every art. They inspect museums, picture galleries, exhibitions, places of culture and art, they inspect their condition and confiscate everything of value.

I consider it as my duty to inform the Russian authorities of the above.

Dr. Foerster
Moscow, 1o. Nov. 1942
SS-Obersturmfuehrer.
4th Co. of the Bn.
of the Waffen SS for special duty.

With your permission, your Honours, I shall read two more extracts from a letter of the "Reich Minister for the occupied territories", dated the 7th April 1942 and signed for the minist by Laibrandt, the defendant Rosenberg's closest assistant.

This letter, numbered 151-PS, is in document book No.6 on pages 12 - 13.

This document is very revealing from the point of view of the scale of the pillage planned and from the point of view of the camouflaging of this pillage, which in the document is shamelessly called "the preservation of objects of culture, research material and scientific institutions in the Eastern occupied territories."

This document is also characteristic owing to the fact that Rosenberg, fearing that he might miss some loot, established his own monopolistic right to plunder, and compromised only with the Quartermaster General of the army, in conjunction with whom, as the letter shows, Rosenberg's operational staff carried on its "work".

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I read the first extract:

I have assigned Reichsleiter ROSENBERG's Einsatzstab for the Occupied Territories with the seizure and uniform handling of cultural goods, research material and scientific apparatus from libraries, archives, scientific institutions, museums, etc., which are found in public, religious or private buildings. The Einsatzstab begins its work, as newly directed by the Fuehrer's decree of 1 March 1942, immediately after occupation of the territories by the combat troops, in agreement with the Quarter aster General of the Army, and completes it in agreement with the competent Reich Commissioners after civil administration has been established. I request all authorities of my administration to support as far as possible the members of the Einsatzstab in carrying out all measures and in giving all necessary information, especially in regard to objects which may have been already seized from the occupied Eastern territories and removed from their previous location, and information as to where this material is located at the present time.

As you see, your Honours, the looting of libraries, archives, scientific research institutes, museums - both private and public - and also church treasures was being planned.

The fact that it is a question - not of "preserving cultural treasures", but of plunder, can be seen from the following extract from the letter mentioned:

Insofar as seizures or transports have already taken place contrary to these provisions, Reichsleiter Rosenberg's Einsatzstab, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2, Bismarckstrasse 1, will be informed without delay.

I shall not trouble your attention by enumerating the numerous addressees to whom this letter was distributed. I shall mention some of them: the OKW, the Ministry for Economy, the plenipotentiary for the 4-year Plan, the Reich Commissars for the Baltic States and the Ukraine, etc.

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Thus this document confirms once more that both Goering, Funk and reprantatives of the OKW also took an active part in the pillage.

The very valuable worksof art plundered in the occupied countries were removed to Germany, which was turned by the Hitlerites into a robbers den.

The Extraordinary State Commission extablished that in January 1942 the Commander of the 1st Tank Army, Cavalry General Mackensen, in the presence of the head of the Propaganda Department of the 1st Tank Army, Miller, took from the Rostov Museum of Pictorial and Plastic Art, which had been evacuated to the town of Pyatigorsk and was then on the premises of the Lermontov Museum, the very valuable canvses of Ribeiro, Rubens, Murillo, Jordans, Vereshiagin, Korovin, Kramskey, Polenov, Repin, Lagerio, Ayvasovsky and Shishkin, sculptures by Donatello and other exhibits.

The statement of the Extraordinary State Commission of the 24 th June 1943 has been submitted to the Tribunal as document . No. USSR-37.

I should like to read one paragraph of page 5 of this document:

"The Art Museum of Rostov had been plundered and evacuated to Germany by the Commander of the 1st Tank Army, General Mackensen and by the Chief of the Propaganda Section of the 1st Tank Army, Miller."

From the affidavit of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government, Stefan Kurovsky, it is established that the defendant Frank, in looting the cultural treasures of the Polish State, was also striving after personal gain.

Pictures, china and other works of art from the plundered museums of Warsaw and Cracow, particularly from Vavel castle, were transferred to the defendant Frank's estate.

General Kurovsky's affidavit is an appendix to the Polish Government report, and is presented to the court as document No. USSR - 302 (it appears in document book No. 6, on pages 19-20).

In the document 055-PS, which is a letter from the "Head of the 4th political leadership group of the Reich Ministry for the Eastern Occupied Territories", dated the 14th September 1944, are indications as to where the looted treasures, were taken and stored.

This letter is addressed to the "Herr Reich Minister; copy to the head of the political leadership staff", and is headed "Objects of art evacuated from Ukraine" (it appears in document book No. 6, on Page 21).

I present this letter as documentary evidence, and read the text:

"The Reichs Commissioner for Ukraine has stored, the objects of art and pictures, evacuated from Kiev and Kharkov, in the following shelters in East Prussia:

1. Estate Richau by Wehlau

2. Manor-house, Wildenhoff (owner Count Schwerin)

There are 65 cases of the contents of which an exact list is enclosed. For about 20 other cases, 57 Portfolios and 1 roll of engravings no inventories exist up to now. Among the pictures there is a great number of very ancient icons, works of famous masters of the German Italian and Dutch schools in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the works of the best Russian masters from the 18th and 19th centuries.

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All this property is made up of the most valuable works of art, taken away from the public Ukrainian museums, which are worth, even at an approximate estimate, the sum of many millions. Besides, this is a unique collection of such international value now on German territory.

On this subject, I quote also an extract from page 2 of a letter from Rosenberg to Bormann, dated the 23rd April 1941 (Exhibit # 371 - USA).

Rosenberg wrote:

> "In the process of these confiscations we have, of course, found also many other works of art; there are some of great value, and - in order to preserve them - the Chief of the High Command of the Armed Forces, at my request and in accordance with Fuehrer's directives, ordered me to draw up a catalogue of these works of art and to keep them for the Fuehrer".

To conclude this Section of my Statement, I should like to mention a fact to illustrate Hitler's personal attitude to the plunder of treasures.

This fact is contained in the Czechoslovak Government Report, signed by Colonel Dr.Bohuslav Ecer, Minister plenipotentiary and Czechoslovak representative on the United Nations Committee for the Investigation of War Crimes.

I quote the first paragraph "b", on Page 72 of the Russian translation of the report, presented to the Tribunal as an incontrovertible document, under # USSR-60.

"Hitler entered in Prague late in the evening of 15th March 1939 and he spend the night in the famous Gradchany citadel. The next day he departed carrying away many very expensive Gobelins".

Not only Hitler but also Goering was a zealous partisan of such "acquisitions".

You have heard, Your Honours, how Goering acquired valuable Gobelins in France. Goering did not "acquire" only Gobelins. As he wrote in one of his letters to Rosenberg (I have in mind document No. 1985-PS) (document book No.6, p.p. 156-158), he, Goering, owned "through purchase and exchange, presents, last will and testaments which are perhaps the most important private collection, at least in Germany if not in Europe".

Document No. 1985-PS is a copy of a typewrittter letter and includes a series of corrections and notes done in ink, clearly in Goering's hand. This copy was captured, together with other correspondence of Goering's, by units of the American Army, of which fact the American prosecution presented a suitable affidavit to the Tribunal at the time.

Document No. 1985-PS reveals to a remarkable extent the nature of the "acquisitions" effected by Goering and also confirms Ribbentrop's part in the "preservation" of cultural treasures in the occupied territories.

For this reason, I shall, with Your permission, read some extracts from this document.

I r e a d :

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" After much back and forth, I was very much gratified that at last a place was created for collecting the things, although I want to point out that still other places are falling back upon the authority of the Fuehrer; above all the Reichsminister of Foreign Affairs, who, several months ago sent a cercular to all departments, in which he had authority for the occupied territory and in which he communicated that the protection of the cultural objects was conferred to him".

And further on:

" ... So that no wrong conception could arise regarding these things which I want to claim myself, and which I have partly aquired by purchase and partly intended to aquire, I want inform you as follows:

1. I possess today already through purchase and exchang, presents, last will and testaments which are perhaps the most important private collection, at least in Germany if not in Europe.

2. A very extensive and highly valued collection of Dutchmen from the 17th century.

3. A comparative small but very good collection of Frenchmen from the 18th century, and finally a collection of Italian masters.

You have heard, Your Honours, how "the personal material interest of the soldiers in the war" was in practice expressed. All this establishes irrevocably that the Hitlerites engaged in pillage and brigandage, and that everyone plundered, starting from the privates and ending with the criminal leaders of Hitlerite Germany.

The same must be said with regard to the destruction of cultural treasures as well.

Decrees and directives regarding the destruction of cultural treasures came from the leaders of Hitlerite Germany and from the highest ranks of the Command of the Armed Forces.

I shall quote as evidence the order of the Commander of the German 6th Army, signed by Field Marshal von Reichenau, approved by Hitler and entitled "Regarding the behaviour of the troops in the East".

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This decree, presented to the Tribunal on February of this year as document No. U.S.S.R.-12, contains direct instructions undisguised by any thing, in the manner customary to the Hitlerites - for the destruction and annihilation of culture in the occupied territories.

I shall only quote one paragraph of this decree:

" The Army is only interested in the work of extinguishing fires insofar as necessary army billets must be preserved. For the rest is part of the battle of annihilation. No regard for history or art matter in the eastern area in this connection."

I shall quote yet another document, which establishes beyond question that the destruction and pillage of cultural treasures universally carried out by the Hitlerites in territories occupied by them was directed by the Hitlerite government.

I have in view the evidence of the defendant Frank written in his diary, extracts of which have already been submitted to the Tribunal as document No. U.S.S.R.-223.

In the 1st volume of Frank's diary, on page 38 (this corresponds to page 169 in our documentbook No. 6) there appears an entry, dated 4-10-39, with the following text:

"Berlin. Conference with Fuehrer/discussed general situation with the Governor-General declared himself satisfied with his activity in Poland as regards in particular, the destruction of Warsaw Palace and nonrestoration of this City, and the evacuation of treasures."

I consider that the documents which have just been submitted and quoted are quite sufficient to enable us to draw the following conclusions.

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a/ The pillage and destruction of the cultural treusures of the peoples in the territories occupied by the Germans took place in accordance with previously worked out curefully prepared plans.

b/ The pillage and destruction of cultural trasures was direded by the Fascist goverment and German high Command.

в/ The most active part in the organisation of the pillage and destruction of cultural treasures was taken by the participants in the couspiracy, the defendants Rosenberg, Ribbentrop Frank and Goering.

3/

Destruction and Pillage of cultural treasures in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Jugoslavia.

I reported to the Tribunal on the general plans of the Hitlerite conspirators for Stranglin national cultural life in the countries occupied by them .

The uniformity of these crimes, the uniformity of the means and methods by which they were carried out prove again and again that these crimes were directed and carried out on directions from one centre,and this centre was the criminal Hitlerite government, representatives of which are occupying the defendants bench.

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I am now passing on to the report concerning the Hitlerite conspirators putting their criminal plans concretely into practice in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.

I will only deal with incontrovertible proofs, consisting of the official reports of the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia, already submitted to the Tribunal by the Soviet prosecution.

I shall quote a few parts of the relevant sections of these reports which directly concern the theme expounded by me and which have not been quoted by my colleagues.

A. Czechoslovakia.

I begin to quote extracts from the Czechoslovak government report.

These extracts are to be found on pages 81 to 88 of document book No. 6 which has been submitted to you.

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Extermination of the Czech Intelligentsia.

K.H. FRANK, who was appointed Secretary of State and deputy to the Reich Protector NEURATH in March 1939 and in August 1943 became Staatsminister and the Head of the German Executive in the Protectorate, said: "The Czechs are only fit to be used as workers and peasants."

K.H. FRANK replied to a Czech delegation which requested in 1942 the Czech universities and colleges to be re-opened: "If the war will be won by England, you will open your schools yourselves; if Germany wins an elementary school with five classes will be enough for you."

Occupation of Scientific Institutions and Robbery.

The Germans occupied all colleges and scientific institutio They immediately seized the valuable apparatus, instruments and scientific equipment in many of the occupied institutions. The scientific libraries were systematically and methodically spoliated. Scientific books and films were torn up or taken away, the archives of the Academic Senate (the Highest University Authority) were torn up or burned, the card-indexes destroyed or scattered.

Suppression of Czech Schools.

K.H. FRANK, in November 1939, personally ordered the closure for a period of three years, of all Czech establishments of higher education.

The University students who were still at liberty, were forbidden to exercise an intellectual profession and were invite to find manual occupation within 48 hours, failing which they would be sent to labour camps to Germany.

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The closure of the universities was aggravated by the closure of the great scientific libraries and of all institutions capable of offering intellectual sustenance to the students who had been expelled from the universities. The library of the University of Prague was henceforth accessible only to Germans.

Suppression of Scientific Life.

The closing down of Czech universities and colleges was merely the first step towards the complete suppression of the whole Czech scientific life. Czech university professors were either pensioned or transferred to functions which made scientific work impossible; the buildings of scientific institutions were handed over either to German universities and colleges of to German military and civil authorities. The German removed all scientific instruments and books and even complete laboratories to Germany, saying that the Czechs would no longer need them. Numbers of works of art, pictures, statues and rare manuscripts stolen from Prague University library and from private collections cannot be calculated, nor their value estimated. Scientific collections were also given to German schools provided they were not stolen piecemeal.

Secondary and Elementary Schools.

Hundreds of Czech elementary and secondary schools were closed in 1939, and so rapid was the systematic closing of Czech schools during the first year of the war that by the end of 1940 6,000 of the 20,000 Czech teachers were unemployed. But the unemployed teachers were not allowed to teach.

All Czech books published during the Republican regime have been confiscated, and glorification of Greater Germany and its Fuehrer became the basis of all teaching at Czech elementary schools.

In 1939 the number of pupils permitted to enter Czech secondary schools had diminished by 60% compared with 1938. In 1940 only 40% of the 1938 figure were permitted to go on from the elementary to the secondary schools. About 70% of the Czech secondary schools had been closed up to the end of 1942. Girls have been entirely excluded from the secondary schools.

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Nursery schools for children between 3 and 6 were completely germanised and employed only German teachers.

(4) Other Cultural Crimes.

Monuments.

In many towns the "Masaryk Houses" which for the most part contain libraries, halls for the showing of educational films, for the performance of plays and concerts have been confiscated and transformed into barracks or offices for the Gestapo. The monument they contained, sometimes of great artistic value, were defiled and broken and in most cases completely demolished - especially those of Masaryk or those recalling the exploits of the Czechoslova volunteers during the Great War. A number of monuments in Prague, among them Bilek's "Moses" and Maratka's "Memorial to the Fallen Legionaries" have been melted down. The memorial dedicated to the Unknown Soldiers was removed. HEYDRICH especially removed Czech national monuments from public places.

(b) Cultural Memorials.

A decree of the Autumn of 1942 ordered all university libraries to hand over all early printed Czech works and first editions to the Germans. The collections in the National Museum were pillaged and the Modern Art Gallery containing a unique collection of Czech art of the 19th and 20th centuries with some precious specimens of foreign (mainly French) art was closed.

The crown jewels of the ancient Czech Kings had to be handed over to HEYDRICH.

Literature.

Translations of works of English, French and Russian authors, classic and modern, were withdrawn from circulation. The severest consorship was applied to the works of living Czech authors. The Germans liquidated many progressive publishing firms.

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All political literature of the free Repuolic as well as the works of the Czech participants in the Czech Renaissance of the 18th and 19th centuries were withdrawn. All books by writers of Jewish origi were forbidden as well as those by writers who were politically "unreliable". The Germans withdrew the Czech classics, as well as the works of John Huss, the 15th century reformer Alois Krassek, the author of historical novels, the poet Victor Dieck and others".

In this way, the Hitlerite bandits, with the stupidity peculiar to them, methodically destroyed the national culture of the peoples of Czechoslovakia, plundered and pillaged works of art, literature and science.

B. POLAND

In Poland, as in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, the German fascist usurpers carried out the liquidation of nationd culture on a grand scale and with exceptional cruelty. The Hitlerite conspirators destroyed the Polish intelligentsia closed educational establishments, forbade the publication of Polish books, pillaged works of art, and blew up and burnt national monuments.

I quote relevant extracts from the Polish Government report, which was submitted to the Tribunal as Exhibit # USSR-93.

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"The Annihilation of the Polish intelligentsia".

In the incorporated regions, they were deprived of all mean. of living. Many of them: professors, teachers, lawyers and judge were shut up in concentration camps or murdered.

In the Government-General about 80% of the intelligentsia lost all means of existence. Journalists and writers were unable do earn a living owing to the liquidation of the press. The publ cation of new books was prohibited.

Universities.

Four universities and 12 schools of a university type ceased to exist. Their average attendance before September 1939 had reached 45.000 students.

Secondary Schools.

In the territory occupied by the Germans, there were about 55o secondary schools. Their closing was ordered. In the incorporated territories they were closed completely. In the Government General they were allowed to continue their activity, but in November 1939 an order was issued to cease teaching. The only schools which were allowed to continue work were the commercial and industrial ones. Educated Poles were not needed. The Poles had to become atrisans and workmen - such was the official line of German policy.

Elementary Schools.

In the incorporated territories, Polish Schools were comple tely abolished. They were replaced by German Schools. Polish chil ren were educated in the German tongue and the German Spirit.

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The Press

On the eve of the war, there were about 2.[illegible] periodicals published in Poland, amongst the 170 journals. By a German order, the Press was practically entire by eradicated.

Books

The publication, printing and distribution of Polish books was forbidden as easly as October 1939.

On the 5 th November 1940, the German "Verordnungsblatt" published the following decree:

"Until this order is countermanded the publication of all books pamphlets, periodicals, journals, Calenders and music without any exceptions, is forbidden, with the exception of those published by the authorities of the Government-General."

The Teatre, Music and Radio

The principles of German policy in Poland were outlind in the circular of the Special Branch of National Education and Propaganda in the German Government-General. It states:

"It goes without saying that not a single German Official will assist the development of Polish Cultural life in any way whatsoever."

The sole purpose which was to be aimed at was, in the words of the circular, - to satisfy elementary demands for entertainment and amusement, - all the more so as this was a question of distracting the attention of the intellectual circles as much as possible, from political discussions which assisted the development of anti-German feelings.

Cultural entertainment and plays had to be deprived of any artistic value, any deeper ideas and any nationalistic element. This was aimed at bringing them down to the level of an inferior human being and at subordinating them to the German Theory that the Germans were a "superior race."

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Pillage, spoliation and destruction of work of art, of Libraries and of Collections.

On the 13th December, 1939, Gauleiter Wartholland issued an order that all public and private libraries and collections in the occupied territories were to be registered. Upon the completion of registration, libraries and book collections were confiscated and transported to the "Buchsammelstelle." There, "special experts" carried out a selection. The final destination was either Berlin or the newly formed State library (Staatsbibliothek) in Poznan. Books considered unsuitable were sold, destroyed or thrown away as waste paper.

The best and the largest libraries of the country fell victims to organised pillage in the Government - General. Amongst these were the University libraries in Cracow and Warsaw. One of the best, though not one of the largest, was the library of the Polish Parliament. It consists of 38,000 volumes and 3,500 periodical publications. On the 15th and 16th November 1939, the main part of this library was transported to Berlin and Breslau. Ancient documents, such as for instance, a collection of parchments which were the property of the Central Archives, were also seized.

The Diocesan Archives in Polyilin, containing 12th century documents were burnt in the furnaces of a sugar refinery.

Works of art and art collections.

The first art treasure removed from Poland was the well - known Altar of Wit Stosz (Veit Stoss) from the Cracow cathedral. It was taken to Germany. On the 16th December, 1939, the defendant Frank issued a decree confiscating works of art.

Three valuable pictures were removed from the galleries of Czartoryski in Sieniava. Frank seized and kept them till the 17th January 1945, then transferred them to Silesia and thence, as his personal property, to Bavaria.

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National Monuments.

In the process of destroying everything connected with Polish history and culture, many monuments and works of art were destroyed and demolished.

The monument of the honoured Polish king Boleslav Chrobry in Gniezno was first wound round with ropes and chains with a view to throwing it off its pedestal. After an unsuccessful attempt, acetylene was used: the head was cut off and the pedestal broken to pieces.

The monument of the Sacred Heart in Poznan, the monuments of Chopin, the poet Slovacki, the composer Moniuszko, the Polish national hero Kosciusko and president Wilson, of the greatest of Polish poets Mickiewicz, and others."

Lists of libraries, museums and book and other collections which fell victims to plunder and spoliation, are appended to the report of the Polish Government.

These materials are also available in our documentbook No.6 a , on p.p. 254-255.

The first list names 30 libraries, the second - 21 museums and collections of works of art, which were plundered and destroyed.

I will not read these lists in full, but will mention only some of the museums and collections which were the subject of national pride and constituted the wealth of the Polish State.

The following fell victims to the German Vandals: the treasure house of Wavelsky cathedral in Cracow, the Pototzky Collections in Yablonnia, the Tchartorysssky Museum in Cracaw (pictures by Raphael. Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, the treasures of Polish kings of the Renaissance period), the National Museum in Cracaw (sculpture and paintings of mediaeval art), the Museum of church art in Warsaw, the Collections of Zamoysky in Warsaw (parchments books and manuscripts), the State numcismatic collections in Warsaw, the Palace of king Stanislav-August in the Lazenkovsky park.

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the palace of King Jan Sobieski in Wilanów, the Collections of count Ternovsky in Sukhaya, the Uliqians' useum in Poznań and others.

The Hitlerite usurpers plundered also monasteries, convents, churches and cathedrals.

On p. 43 of the report of the Polish Government (the Russian Translation corresponds to p. 223 of our documentbook No. 6a there are quoted the Concluding notes of the Polish Prelate, Cardinal Glond.

They concern a written communication from Cardinal Glond to Pope Pius XII. I shall read only two paragraphs of these concluding notes:

> "Monasteries and convents have been methodically suppressed as well as their flourishing works of education, publicity, social welfare, charity and care of the sick. Their houses and their institutes have been occupied by the army of the Nazi party.
>
> "The invaders have, further, confiscated or sequestrated the patrimony of the Church, considering themselves as its masters. The cathedrals, the bishops' palaces, the seminaries, the canons' residences, the revenues and endowments of bishoprics and chapters, the funds of the curias and seminaries ..... all have been pillaged by the invaders."

In conclusion, I am reading an extract from the report of the Polish Government (p. 215 of documentbook, No. 6a) connected with this chapter:

General Conclusions

The aforementioned instances are only such instances of pillage, spoliation and destruction as are entirely indubitable. They are, in fact, typical examples of German methods of action. The crimes cover all the cultural, artistic and historical wealth of Poland.

All this was a clear violation of the written as well as the unwritten laws for the conduct of war."

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B. Yugoslavia

The destruction of the National Culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia was conducted by the Hitlerites by various means and methods.

I shall not enumerate and deserible them in detail, your Honours. These methods and means are well known.

The same thing happened in Yugoslavia as in Poland and Czechoslovakia. It is necessary to stress that, in destroying, the culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia, the German-Fascist occupiers showed great ingenuity and utilized their rich experiences, acquired in other countries occupied by them.

The system of destruction of the national culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia starts with attack and pillage and ends with mass murders, camps and crematorium incinerators.

In the report of the Yugoslav Government, presented to the Tribunal as U.S.S.R.-36, there are quoted a large number of facts and documents which establish incontroversibly the criminal deeds of the defendants.

But even these numerous facts quoted in the report are, of course, far from exhausting all the crimes committed by the Hitlerites. The report of the Yugoslav Government gives only typical cases, as examples.

I will quote several excerpts from the reports of the Yugoslav Government (P. 48 of the report, corresponding to P. 303 of documentbook No. 6a)

Immediately after the invasion of Slovenia, the Germans started the realisation of their plans to germanize the occupied territories.

And farther on: (p. 52 of the report - p. 307 of document-book No. 6a)

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"... the occupation authorities shut all schools in Slovenia, exiled all Slovene teachers, destroyed all Slovene libraries and books and forbade the use of the Slovene language, considered it as an act of sabotage".

The German barbarians destroyed and plundered not libraries alone. They destroyed universities and Radio-stations, Palaces of Culture and Sanatoria.

On page 23 of the report (p.278 of document book No.6-a) there are to be found, by way of example, these facts concerning Belgrade.

I quote:

"... without any military need, the Germans destroyed maliciously and burnt a great number of public buildings and cultural institutions, Such as: the new University, the peoples University "Kolcraz", the first gymnasium for boys, the second gymnasium for girls, the public labour exchange, the students' dining room, the ancient royal palace, the building of the Ministry for Construction , radio-station, the Russian home of culture, the Sanatorium of Dr. Jivkovich and so on. In the university building valuable objects and the most important collection of scientific researches and matter were destroyed."

As is established by the statement of the Yugoslav State Commission I present this document as USSR - 364 (it appears in your document book on page 31a) - the Hitlerites razed the national library in Belgrade to the ground and burnt hundreds of thousands of books and manuscripts - the basic stock of Serbian culture; they completely destroyed 71 and partially destroyed 41 scientific institutes and laboratories of Belgrade University; they razed to the ground of the State Academy of Art; they burnt and looted thousands of schools.

The Hitlerite pirates pillaged churches too. I shall give as an example one fact, described on page 48 of the report

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(p. 303 of document book No. 6a)

"The Germans did not spare even the churches. Thus the church of Saint Johan in Zablatz was plundered by the German unit "Konrad-Einheit" which operated in the district of Shebenik."

During the four years of German domination of Jugoslavia, her peoples experienced great sufferings and sorrow.

The Germans pillaged this country's economy, causing her great material damage.

But the damage caused by them to the culture of the peoples of yugoslavia is still more considerable.

In concluding this chapter of any report, I consider it necessary, your honours, to quote yet another excerpt from the diary of the defendant Frank. I have in mind the calico-bound volume of the diary entitled "Conferences of the leaders of departments of 1939/40", which contains an entry concerning the conference of the leaders of departments of the 19 th January 1940 in Cracow.

In our document book No. 6 this excerpt is to be found on p. 169.

I read the excerpt:

"On 15 September 1939, I was entrusted with the administration of the occupied Eastern territories, and received a special order to devastate this region pitilessly as a combat zone and a prize of war, and to reduce its economic, social, cultural and political structure to a heap of ruins."

To this statement of Frank's only the following must be added: the defendant Frank performed this task in Poland with all zeal, and the other Reichs-Gau and other leiters acted similarly in the occupied Territories of the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia.

4. Destruction and spoliation of cultural treasures in the U.S.S.R.

I am beginning your honours to present proofs of the crimes committed by the defendants against the culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

We have heard, here in Court, with what violance and on what a large scale the Hitlerites conducted the destruction and spoliation of the cultural wealth of the peoples of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.

The crimes committed by the Hitlerite conspirators in the occupied territories of the U.S.S.R. were still graver.

The criminal company called Hitler's Government had as its aim not only the plundering of the peoples of the Soviet Union, the destruction of towns and villages created by them and the extrirpation of the culture of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., but also the enslavement of the Soviet peoples and the transformation of our fatherland into a colony enslaved by the fascists.

A. Destruction of the monuments of national culture of the peoples of the U.S.S.R.

In section 2 of my report, proofs were given of how the destruction of the cultural wealth of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. was organised and planned.

In the note of the 27th April 1942 of the People's Commissar for Foreign affairs, V.M. Molotov presented as document U.S.S.R. 51/3, documents and facts are quoted which establish beyond dispute that the reservation destruction of historic and cultural monuments and the wile

mockery of national feelings, beliefs and convictions constituted a part of the monstrous plan through. out and put into practice by the Hitlerite Government and aimed at the total annihilation of the national culture of the peoples of the USSR.

Later on I shall return to this document, but at present I wish to read the following excerpt(this excerpt corresponds to page 321 of document book No. 6a.

"Documents and facts show that the German-fascist army and occupation authorities do not hesitate to adopt any means to oppress the population, do not hesitate to resort to any outrage to human dignity national feelings, religious beliefs and convictions.

The defilement and destruction of historical and cultural memorials on occupied Soviet territories and the devastation of the numerous cultural establishments set up by the Soviet authorities are part of the monstrously senseless plan conceived and pursued by the Hitler government, the aim of which is to wipe out Russian national culture and the national cultures of the peoples of the Soviet Union, forcibly to Teutonize the Russian, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Esthonians and other peoples of the USSR. Only the fascist degenerates could have set themselves the stupid aim of uprooting the great Russian culture and the cultures of the other Soviet peoples, which under Soviet rule have been set on the road to unprecedented national growth and florescence. Nevertheless, numerous orders and injunctions of the German Command and occupation authorities testify to the fact that in their blind hatred for the peoples of the Soviet Union the Hitlerites have stopped at nothing to outrage the national dignity of the Soviet peoples and to disclose to the whole world the loathsome misanthropic

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essence of German fascism .

The well-known Order of General Field Marshal von Reichenau contains a direct call for acts of vandalism on the part of the German army, which has had it drummed into its ears that no historical or artistic values in the East are of any consideration. In Order No. 0973/41, General Hodt, commander of the 17th German Army, demands that his subordinates thoroughly assimilate the misanthropic notion, so typical of the thick-skulled fascists, that "the sound feelings of vengeance and revulsion towards all that is Russian must not be suppressed among the men, but, on the contrary, encouraged in every way."

True to their custom of destroying universally acknowledged cultural values, the Hitlerites everywhere on the Soviet territory occupied by them have devastated and largely burnt down book depositories, from small club and school libraries to the most valuable collections of manuscripts and books, containing unique bibliographical treasures. On the territory of parts of the Moscow Region which they had temporarily occupied, the invaders looted and wrecked 112 libraries, 4 museums, and 54 theatres and moving-picture theatres. The Hitlerites pillaged and then set fire to the famous Borodino Museum, the historical exhibits of which relate to the struggle against the Napoleonic Army in 1812, and by which the Russian people set particularly great store. The invaders looted and set fire to the Pushkin House and Museum in the hamlet of Polotnyany Zavod. In Kaluga the Hitlerites assiduously destroyed the exhibits in the Tsiolkovsky Museum, the house in which lived and worked the famous Russian scientist, whose services in the field of aeronautics enjoy world-wide fame. The fascist vandals used Tsiolkovsky's portrait as a target for revolver practice. Extremely valuable models of dirigibles, drafts and instruments were trampled underfoot. One of the museum rooms was turned into a henroost, and the furniture burnt. One of the oldest agricultural institutions in the U.S.S.R., the Shatilov Selection Station in the Orel Region, was destroyed by the invaders, who blew up and consigned to the flames fifty-five buildings of this Station, including the agro-chemical and other laboratories, the museum, the library, containing 40,000 volumes, the school and others buildings.

"Even greater frenzy was shown by the Hitlerites in the plunder of the cultural institutions and the historical monuments of the Ukraine and Byelorussia. The Byelorussian Academy of Science with its most rare collection of historical documents and books was plundered and looted by the invaders. The same was done to the Agticultural Acamemy of Goretzk, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Hundreds of schools and clubs, tens of theatres and musical establishments, and the rarest specimens of the folk art of Byelorussia were destroyed. There was no limit to the desecration by the Hitlerite vandals of the monuments and homes representing Ukrainian history, culture and art. It will suffice to mention one of the constant attempts to humiliate the national dignity of the Ukrainian people: having plundered the Korolenko Library in Kharkov, the Germans used the books as paving bricks for the muddy street to facilitate the passage of German motor vehicles."

A particular hatred was vented by the German barbarians on those cultural monuments, which were most dear to the Soviet people.

I will quote several facts.

The Hitlerites plundered Yasnaja Polyana where one of the greatest writers, Leo Tolstoy, was born, lived and worked.

They plundered and despoiled the house where the great Russian composer Tchaikowsky lived and worked. In this house Tchaikowsky created the world--famous operas "Eugen Onegin" and "Queen of Spades".

In Taganrog they destroyed the house of the great Russian writer Chekhov, in Tikhvin, the house of the great Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov, in the Ukraine, the monument of the great poet Taras Shevchenko, and many others.

As unquestionable evidence I will read into the record an excerpt from the Note of V.M. Molotov, the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, of 6 January 1942, submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit No.USSR-51/2 (this excerpt will be found on page 317, document book 6a).

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"For a period of six weeks the Germans occupied the world-renowned Yasnaya Polyana estate where Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest geniuses of mankind, was born, lived and created. This famous memorial to Russian culture, which was cleared of invaders by Red Army units on December 14, was wrecked, befouled and finally set on fire by the Nazi vandals. The grave of the great writer was desecrated by the invaders. Irreplaceable relics relating to the life and work of Leo Tolstoy - rare manuscipts, books and paintings - have either been stolen by the German military or thrown away and destroyed. In reply to the request of one of the members of the museum staff to stop using the personal furniture and books of the great writer for firewood and to use other wood available for this purpose, a German officer named Schwartz, declared: " We don't need firewood: we shall burn everything connected with the name of your Tolstoy."

When the town of Klin was liberated by Soviet troops in December 15, it was found that the house in which Tschaikovsky, the great Russian composer, had lived and worked, and which the Soviet state had turned into a museum, had been wrecked and plundered by Nazi officers and soldiers. In the museum building itself the frenzied invaders set up a garage for motorcycles, heating this garage with manuscripts. books, furniture and other museum exhibits, part of which had been stolen by the German invaders for eventuality. In doing this, the Nazi officers knew that they were defiling one of the finest monuments of Russian culture.

During their occupation of the town of Istra, the German troops established an ammunition dump in the celebrated ancient Russian monastery known as the New Jerusalem Monastery, founded as early as 1654 and restored in the eighteenth century by the great architects Rastrelli and Kazakov. The New Jerusalem Monastery was an outstanding historical and religious landmark of the Russian people, and famous as one of the largest and most beautiful of edifices. However, this did not prevent the German-fascist vandals from

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blowing up their ammunition dump in the New Jerusalem shrine on their retreat from Istra, thereby reducing this irreplaceable monument of Russian Church history to a heap of ruins.

Among the numerous other acts of vandalism and desecration committed by the Germans against cultural monuments of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., mention must be made of the invaders, destruction of the monument of the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in the town of Kanev in the Ukraine, of the house in which the great Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov lived in Tikhvin, and of the house of the world-famous Russian author Chekhov, in Taganrog."

Acting upon directions of the German Military Command, the Hitlerites destroyed and annihilated the cultural-historic monuments of the Russian people, connected with the life and the works of the great Russian poet - Alexander Sergeivitch Pushkin.

The Report of the Extraordinary State Commission of 29 August 1944 on "the Destructions and Atrocities Committed by German Fascist Barbarians in the Puskin Resrvation of the U.S.S.R. Aeademy of Science", which I submit as Exhibit No USSR-40, reads as follows:

To preserve the cultural and historical memorials of the Russian people connected with the life and works of the great Russian poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, the Soviet Government on 17 March 1922 declared the poet,s estate, situated at Michailovskoye, a state-reservation which included his grave at the monk's monastery of Svyatogorsky and the mighboring villages of Trigorskoye, Gorodischtsche and Woronitsch..

The Pushkin Reservation and especially the poet's estate at Michailo skoye was very dear to the Russian people. Here Pushkin finished the 3.- and wrote the 4., 5., and 6. chapter of "Eugen Onegin", finished his poem "The Gypsies" and wrote the drama "Boris Godunov" as well as a large member of epic and lyrical poems.

In July 1941 the Nazis forced their way into the Pushkin Reservation. For three years they lived there like grand lords, ruined everything and destroyed the Pushkin memorials.

Destruction of the Estate of the Poet of Mikhailovskoye.

At the beginning of the Patriotic War part of the precious material of the Pushkin Museum was captured by the Germans while the village of Zharki in the district of Novorshow was being evacuated. The rest was crated and buried. At first the Germans pretended to act as "defenders of culture", and opened the museum for visitors. As was found out later they did this in order to gather up all bidden treasures of the museum and to drag them away to Germany.

After all the important items of the museum had been collected the Germans dismissed all former employees of the museum and took several of them into custody. The Germans appointed a forestry expert Afanasyev by name, who knew nothing asout literature director of the institution. A German woman named Schiller was appointed Museum guide. The looting of the Museum had started in August 1941.

Vossfinckel, representative of the German Military Commander come to the museum repeatedly and took everything he liked e.g. pictures, furniture, books.

In autumn 1943 Afanasyev, the director of the Museum was given an order by Treibholz the Military Commander of Pushkinyory to make preparations for the evacuation of all treasures of the Museum. Treibholz stated that it was a measure for the preservation of these treasuries since there was a danger from the fighting line coming nearer. All the pieces of exhibition in the museum were packed up and forwarded by trucks, which went to Germany.

During the winter of 1943 the Germans sent an engeneer named Joseph Amel to Pushkinskie Gory who began to devastate the forests in the district of Pushkinskie Gory and Novorzhev. During the spring 1944 he undertook to cut down the old forest in the Pushkin forest reservation .At the end the Germans converted Mikhailovskoye into one of their fortified strong points. The park was trenched and shelters were built.

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The cottage of Pushkin's nurse was demolished and the Germans constructed next to it and partly on its site a huge shelter which was covered with 5 layers of timber.

A similar dug-out was erected near the former Museum. Prior to their retreat the Germans completed their work of destruction and the desecration of the Pushkin estate. The museum which had been erected upon the foundation of the former dwelling house of Pushkin was burned down, and nothing but a pile of rubbles remained. The marble plate of the Pushkin-monument was destroyed and thrown on the pile of ashes. Of the two houses in the Pushkin-reservation located at the entrance to the Mikhailovskoye- estate, one was burned down and the other severly damaged. The vandals put three bullet-holes into Pushkin's portrait, which hung in an archway at the entrance to the Mikhailovskove park and then destroyed the archway.

After their retreat, the Nazis fired on the village with mortars and artillery. The staircase leading to the river Sorot was destroyed by German mines. The old linden trees on the circular road leading to the house were damaged, one elm tree standing in front of the house was damaged by grenades and grenade splinters. The largest pine-trees in the famous Pushkin alley were cut down.

Destruction in Trigorskoye, Gorodische and in the village of Voronitsch.

Many years of the Poet's life were linked to Trigorskoye, which was the estate of Pushkin's friends, Ossipov-Wulf. The German-fascist invaders devastated and littered with dirt Trigorskoye's park, criss-crossed it with Trenches, surrounded it with barbed wire and mined it. Under the colossal old oak-tree, which according to tradition was dearly loved by Pushkin, a dugout was dug. The most picturesque part of the park, the gradual sloping bank of the Sorot river, where the so-called "Oneginbank" stood, was devastated. Many trees in the park were mined. A large part of the neighbouring village Voronitsch, famous for its historical value in the creation of "Boris Godunov", was destroyed. The tourist-hotel and a number of other buildings were burned down.

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The school was destroyed. The wooden church, which dated back to Pushkin's time, and in which Pushkin had commemorated the death of the grat English poet Byron, was burned down.

The church-yard where Hannibal, one of Pushkin's relatives and Rayevsky, a priest and close friend of the poet, lie buried, was criss-crossed by trenches and devastated. The graves of members of the Ossipovwulf family, situated upon the hill of Garodischt near Voronitsch, were also desecrated. The marble cover over the grave of Ossipova, the proprietress of Jrigorskoye was smashed. The marble cross over her sons grave Pushkin's friend Wulf, was damaged.

The historical aspects of the reservation which for the Russian people is full of memories of Pushkin, were destroyed beyond recognition by the Germans.

Desecration of Pushkin(s grave and Destruction of the Monastery of Svyatiye-Gory

The despicable attitude of the Germans against national Russian shrines, is illustrated best by the contemptible desecration of Pushkin's grave. The troops of the Red Army, atempting to preserve the Pushkin reservation from destruction, evacuated this territory without a fight in 1941 and with-drew toward Vovorzhev. The Germans nevertheless on the end of Juli 1941 fired upon the monastery of Svyatiye-Gory, against the walls of which Pushkin's tomb is situated. In march 1943, long before the line of battle was nearing. The territory of Pushkin's kiye-Gory, the Germans started systematically to demolish the monastery of Svyatiye-Gory which was under their "protection".

According to the testimony of the priest Dmitriyev the Germans caused two explosions in the principal church of the monastery- the Uppenskaj a cathedral which was built on the order of Ivan the Terrible in the sixtenth century. As a result of the second explosion the cathedral on the walls of which Pushkin's grave was situated was destroyed. The bell-tower collapsed, while the ancient big bell which was 200 years old-broke into small fragments, which lie strewn over the ruins along the hillside. The cross has been torn from the cupola of the cathedral and the west part of the cupola has been pierced by a shell. The roofs of the side - chapels have collapsed. The Holy Nikolaus church, the refectory room, the monks' cells, the cloister's hotel and other buildings were burned down and completely destroyed. The cloister gate was damaged by a shell; the ikon from the western gate was put off.

The poet's grave was found completely covered with refuse. Both steps leading down to the grave, have been destroyed. The area surrounding the grave was covered with rubbish, rubble, fragments of icons and pieces of sheet metal. The marble plates on top of the grave of the poet's grandfather and grandmother (Ossip Abramovich and Maria Alexeyevna Gannibal) were completely covered with refuse and earth. The slabs with the inscriptions had been brok and thrown on the pile of rubble.

The wrought-iron fence around the monument has been bent out of shape and crumpled: the metal tips on the corners broken off. The marble ballustrade surrounding the monument has also been damaged in various places by shrapnel and bullets. The monument itself is inclined at an angle of 10 to 12 degrees towards the east as a result of a landlide following the shelling and of the shocks caused by the explosions.

The invaders knew very well that the officers and soldiers of the Red Army, after the entry into Pushkinskiye Gory would first of all visit the grave of the poet and therefore converted it into a trap for the patriots. Approximately 3000 mines were discovered on the grounds of the monastery and its vicinity and rendered harmless by the Sovjet engineers under Smirnov and Sachkevius.

The facts established with regard to the destruction and devastation of the Pushkin reservation by the Hitlerbandits are new proof for the unheard of crimes which were committed by the German faschist invaders.

The destruction of the monuments of art and architecture in the cities of Pavlovsk, Tzarskoe Selo and Peterhof is one of the most terrible crimes committed by the Hitleretes against culture.

Magnificent monuments of art and architecture in these cities which have bee transformed into cities-museums, are well known to the whole civilized world

These art and architecture monuments were created in the course of two centuries and they commemorate a whole series of the most outstanding events in the history of Russia.

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Famous Russian and foreign architects, artists and sculptors created their masterpieces, which were in these museum-towns.

And all this, together with priceless treasures of the Russian and world art, has been demolished, plundered, burnt or blown up by the Fascist vandals, acting on the direct orders of the criminal German Govermnent and its Supreme Command.

I shall read and present as an indisputable proof the document USSR-49, which includes a statement of the Extraordinary State Commission dated the 3rd September, 1944.

(Pages 303-32 of a document book No.6a).

"Petrodvoretz (Peterhof) was founded in 1705 by Peter the First. TheFrench architect Leblon built the remarkable palaces of Marly and the Hermitage at Petrodvoretz; the Italian Rastrelli created the Great Palace; the English Palace is Giacomo Quarengi's workmanship; the famous Russian architect, Voronikhin, a former serf,added graceful pavilions to the Nizmny Park. The remarkable palaces and parks of Petrodvoretz became widely known as wonderful monument of XVIII and XIX century world architecture.

The fountains of Petrodvoretz were famous throughout the world. The big cascade-waterfall of the fountain system of Petrodvoretz, together with the Great Palace, the fountain "Samson" and the canal leading to the sea, was a historical monument dedicated to the victory of Russian arms over the Swedes at Poltava.

. . . . . .

From the time of the October revolution, Petrodvoretz became a place to which thousands of tourists came every year, not only from every corner of the Soviet Union, but also from many foreign countries. Up to 150 thousand

citizens of Leningrad used to go out to Petrodvoretz for relaxation on rest days.

During the course of 2 centuries, artistic architectural monuments had been created - palaces, parks and sculptures - in the town of Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo), which was, before 1917, the Tsars residence. The great architects of the XVIII and XIX centuries, Kvassov, Zemtzov, Rastrelli, Quarengi, Rinaldi, Voronikhin, Felten, Neyelowy, Cameron and Stassov, the sculptors Gordeyev, Martos, Demut-Malinovsky and Kozlovsky, the painters Scotti, Shtchedrin, Gonzago and others, had, by their works, created for Tsarskoye Selo a world-wide renown.

The monuments of Tsarskoye Selo are closely connected with a whole series of the greatest events in Russia's history...

In the Admiralty at Tsarskoye Selo there was a collection of rowing and sailing boats, exceptional for its historical value; in the same place - the Admiralty - there was also the famous Gottorpsky globe, made on the orders of the Duke Gottorpsky in the middle of the XVII century and presented to Peter I in 1713...

With Tsarskoye Selo is connected the activity of the best representatives of Russian literature: Lomonosov, Sumarokov, Zhukovsky, Karamzin, Lermontov, Tchaadayev, Tyutchev and Gogol. At the Lyceum of Tsarskoye Selo, the great Russian poet A.S.Pushkin was educated.

The magnificent Ekaterininsky palace, raised in the town of Pushkin by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the Alexandrovsky palace, built there too by Giacomo Quarengi, the Cameron baths and gallery, bearing the name of their famous creator, were the best examples of world architecture.

The Pavlovsky palace and park in the town of Pavlovsk were the most notable monuments of architecture and of the art of laying out gardens and parks. The palace and park were created by celebrated masters of architecture: Cameron, Rossi, Voronikhin, Brenna; sculptors: Martos, Kozlovsky, Demut-Malinovsky and Prokofyev; painters: Scotti, Shtchedrin, Mettenleiter and Gonzago. In 1823 the architect K. Rossi built and finished off, in the left wing of the palace the world-famous library.

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The Soviet people carefully preserved the museum-towns of Petrodvaretz, of Pushkin and of Pavlovsk, in which were concentrated monuments of Russia's history created by the genius and labour of the peole. Every year vast sums were expended for maintaining these towns and their parks in good order, and for work on repairing and restoring the palaces, fountains and other constructions. In the palaces were lodged the priceless treasuzes of Russian and world art, the rarest examples of furniture, china, painting, tapestry and sculptures by Russian and foreign masters.

At the moment the German usurpers broke into Petrodvoretz, there still remained, after the evacuation, 34,514 various museum exhibits (Pictures, artistic ware and sculptures) and 11,700 very valuable books from the palace libraries. In the ground floor rooms of the Ekaterininsky and Alexandrovsky palaces in the town of Pushkin there were concentrated sets of furniture of mid- XVIIIth century, Russian and French work-manship, 600 items of artistic china of the late XIX and early XX centuries, al large number of marble busts, small objects of sculpture and up t 35,000 volumes from the palace libravies.

On the basis of documentary material, the statements and testimony of eye witnesses, the evidence of German prisoners of war and of careful investigation, it has been established that: <u>the German burglars looted and destryed the monuments of art of Petrodvoretz</u>

Beaking into Potrodvoretz on the 23rd September 1941, the German usurpers immediately procoeded to pillage the treasures of the palaces-museums and removed the contents of the palaces during the course of a few months.

From the Great, Marly, Monplaisir and Cottage palaces, they plundered and removed to Germany some 34,000 museum exhibits, among them 4,950 pieces of urique furniture of English, Italian, French and Russian workmanship of the time of Cathrine the Great, Alexander and Nicholas, and many rare

.sets of china made by foreign & Russian manufacturers of the XVIII th & XIX th centuries, The German barbarians stripped off the silk, tapestries and other decorative materials which beautifie the walls of the palace halls.

In November 1941, the Germans removed the bronze sculpture of Samson, which was the work of the sculptor Kozlovsky, and took it away . . .

. . . . . .

Having looted the museum treasures, the German bandits set fi to the Great Palace, the masterpiece of the architect Bartholomeo F. Rastrelli. In the palace, the following perished completely: the ball-room, the audience-hall, the grand staircase and the chur decorated with gilded wooden carving executed in accordance with Rastrelli's designs; the throne room, Tchesmensky Hall and dining-hall, created by Felten, the oak staircase & oak study, decorated with the most delicate carving.

On their withdrawal from Petrodvoretz, the Germans wrecked, th Marly Palace with the aid of delayed action mines. The palace contained the most delicate stucco mouldings and Carving.

The Germans wrecked Peter's Monplaisir. They destroyed all the wooden parts of the pavilions & galleries, the interior decoration of the study, the bedrooms & the Chinese rooms; during the occupation, they, turned the central part of the palace, which is the most valuable historico-artistically, into a D.O.T., in the weste pavilion of the palace they installed a stable and a latrine. In the premises of the Assembly building, the Germans tore up the flo sawed through the beams, destroyed the doors & window-frames and stripped the panelling of the ceiling.

In the parks pavilion, - the Hermitage, - the Hitlerites set up a machine-gun & artillery target, destroying the interior decoration of the edifice and the ancient lifting mechanism of the Dining-Table.

In the northern part of the park - the so - called Alexandria they blow up Nicholas II's villa, completely destroyed the wooden officer's cottage, the Alexandrine gates, the pavilions of the fountain, the pylon of the Chief gate of the Upper Road and the Rose pavilion.

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Nicholas I'st palace, the Cottage, the Germans used as a medical post and in the Fermersky palace they lodged their staff All the interior decoration of these palaces was destroyed.

The Germans wrecked the famous fountain system of the Petro voretz parks. They damaged the pipe-line feeding the fountains along its whole extensia from the "Rose pavilion" dam to the Upp park....

.... After the occupation of new Petrodvoretz, units of the 291st German infantry division completely destroyed by the fire heavy guns the famous English Palace at Old Petrodvoretz, built on Catherine II's orders by the architect Quarengi. The Germans fired 9,000 rounds of heavy artillery ammunition- With the Palac the picturesque English park and all the park pavilions were destroyed.

The 316th infantry regiment of the 212th German division destroyed by artillery fire the so-called "personal villa of Alexander II", built under Nicholas I.

In Old Petrodvoretz, the Germans destroyed all the church among them the Znamensky one, in which were preserved historica war relics of the time of the Patriotic war of 1812. The temple-museum of the Seraphimovsky monastery, with its remarkable icono stasis in the style of ancient north Russian church architectur was ruined.

The Hitlerite bandits wooked the palaces of the town of Pushkin.

The looting and ruining of the historical and artistic palaces o the town of Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo) was carried out by design, on the orders of the highest German authorities.

A captain of the Medical services of the 61st infantry division, Helmuth Antes, who was taken prisoner in February 1944, stated: "I know that in 1941 a special commission, the Kunstkom sion", was set up in Germany. Included among the functions of t commission was the task of removing palace property in the occu-pied regions of Russia and of transferring to Germany everythi that had been confiscated. This commission in 1941 and

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1942 loaded all the valuable property from the Pushkin palace in transports and removed it to Germany. How many valuables were taken away from these palaces, I do not know, but, in any case, they took everything according to my information there was a roo in the Ekaterinsky Palace in the town of Pushkin, whose walls we lined with amber. The amber was torn off and transported to Germany."

The most important part of the Ekaterinsky Palace was burnt by the Germans. The famous 300 metre long series of State Halls, designed by Rastrelli, perished in the flames. The famous Anterooms ("waiting-halls") decorated by Rastrelli were ruined. All the Ante-Room Wlls were covered with gilded carwings, the vast cerlings were covered with excellent canvasses painted by artist in the middle of the 18th century: Valoriani, Gradizzi, Belsky and others. As it was impossible to take these huge camasses, th Germans cur in pieces these famous works of art.

The large Hall - the creation of the genius Rastrelli, pres an awful picture. Destroyed were the unique ceilings the work of Torelli, Giodiano, Brullov, and other famous Italian ans Russian masters, stripped and revisned the ancient 18th century painted Chinese silks from the walls of the Chinese drawing-room and Alexander the Ist's bedroom, and the yellow silk with a woven design of swans and pheasants in Russian handwork of the 18th century, with which the walls of the Small during room were lin the inlaid parquet flooring, made from precious kinds of wood an executed according to the designs of the architect Rinaldi, perished.

One of the Rastrelli's best creations which was ruined and pillaged, was the Palace Church, wonderful for its interior dece ration. The iconostasis of the Church was broken, the ikons take away, part of the cerlings cut and part destroyed, the floors pulled up the gild stucco mouldings were stripped....

At the time of the retreat in January 1944, the German usur repared the complete destruction of all that was left of Catherine's Palace and the asjoining buildings. For this purpose, on th ground floor of the

still remaining part of the palace, as well as under the Cameron Gallery, II large delayed action aerial bombs were laid, weighing from one to three tons.

The Hitlerite bandits devastated, in Pushkin the Alexandrovsky palace constructed of the end of the XVIII century by the famous architect Giacomo Quarengi.

All the buildings of the palace, including the central series of halls decorated by Quarengi, were utilised as barracks. The German units billeted in the palace plundered all the equipment, furniture and other palace ornaments, broke all doors in a predatory manner, carried off all metal fittings, including door handles and locks, broke up the marble ornamentations of the state halls and blasted the right wing of the palace.

All the museum furniture, stored in the basements of the Ekaterinsky and Alexandrovsky palaces, objects of artistic porcelain and books from the palace libraries were transported to Germany.

The famous ceiling painting "The Feast of the Gods on Olympus", in the Main Hall of the Hermitage Pavilion, was dismantled and taken to Germany. Ceiling paintings by Russian and Italian masters in the wing galleries and rooms were cut up. Ancient launches, unique monuments of the history of the Russian Navy, were used by the Germans for their joy-rides on the ponds. The majority of these launches perished. The famous "Turkish baths", decorated inside with Olonetzky marble and gilt, were blown up. The Turkish kiosk, built in 1771-81 by Quarengi, was burnt.

Great destruction was caused by the Hitlerites in the beautiful parks of Pushkin; thousands of century old trees were chopped down.

Destruction of Pavlovsky Palace in the town of Pavlovsk.

Ribbentrop's special purpose battalion and commandos of Rosenberg's staff transported from Pavlovsky palace to Germany the palace furniture of great value, designed by Voronikhin and the greatest masters of the XVIII th century. In the palace, parquet floors of precious wood, of artistic value were lifted. From the walls were ripped basreliefs and tapestries,

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and mural and ceiling paintings, even all the handles and door ornamentations made of bronze and wood were removed. Barbarously mutilated were the frescoes by Gonzago of great art value, sculpture by Prokofiev marble vases by Gillet.

Great destruction was wrought in the park. The Rose pavilion built by Voronichin was burnt to the ground. All that remained of the Hunting lodge "Krik", constructed in the 17th century was the door frame. Constantine's palace was also destroyed, as well as the adjoining service buildings.

On retreating, the fascist usurpers set fire to the Pavlov Palace. The greatest part of the Palace building was entirely burnt down. The cupola crowning the central park crumbled. On the front side, the trellis over the collonades of the galleries, with their 18th century wood carvings was destroyed by fire as well as the K. Rossi library, The wooden parts of the artistic Palace decorations were utterly burnt out on all floors. Also ruined were the ceilings,paintings and mouldings, the sculptured panels, marble fir places and pilasters."

THE GERMAN FASCIST BARBARIANS MUST ANSWER!

The Extraordinary State Commission established that the destruction of art monuments in Petrodvorets, Pushkino and Pavlowsk was carried out by the officers and soldiers of the German army on the direct orders of the German Government and the High Command.

B. Destruction of Historic Monuments in the Ancient Russian Towns

Many large towns were destroyed by the German fascist authorities in the USSR territories occupied by them. But they destroyed with particular ruthlessness the ancient Russian towns which contained monuments of ancient Russian art.

I give as an example the destruction of the cities of Novgorod, Pskov and Smolensk.

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Novgorod and Pskov belong to those historical centers where the Russian people created the foundation of their state.

For centuries there flourished a highly developed culture, the only one of its kind. It left a rich heritage which is a valuable possession of our people. Thanks to the survival of numerous monuments of ecclesiastic and civil architecture, murals, paintings, sculpture and handicraft, Novgorod and Pskov were rightly called cathedras of Russian history. Many scholars, artists and students came to Novgorod and Pskov from various parts of the Soviet Union and from other countries in order to study and to gain knowledge of the monuments of Russian history and the masterpieces of ancient Russia.

The hitlerite barbarians destroyed in Novgorod many most valuable monuments of Russian art of international fame of the XIth - XIIth centuries. Among others destroyed was one of the oldest monuments of Russian architecture and the first stone building of Novgorod --- the Sophia cathedral --- erected in the XIth century, which held many historic relics. In the cathedral reposed the remains of Novgorod's princes and archbishops; the cathedral possessed rich and varied interior decorations in which the work of many centuries was blended together.

The Germans destroyed the great memorial "The thousand years of Russia" which reflected in its statuary the stages of the development of our fatherland up to the sixties of the XIXth century.

They destroyed not only monuments, but turned the whole town into a heap of ruins.

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By way of a proof I shall read into the record some excerpts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, submitted as exhibit USSR-50.

"... The ancient Russian city of Novgorod was turned into a pile of ruins by the German fascist invaders. They destroyed the historical monuments and dismantled some to use them for constructing fortifications ...

... Before the Patriotic War, Novgorod was an important center of culture and learning. There were located a branch of the Historical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, a museum, a teacher's College, Medical and Motor road Construction Technical Schools, a School of Pedagogics, a Pre-Medical and Midwifery School and an Institute of Pharmaceutics.

Destruction of Historical Monuments in Novgorod

The German-fascist barbarians destroyed and obliterated in Novgorod the greatest monuments of ancient Russian art. The fascists destroyed the vaults walls and towers of the St. George Cathedral of the Yuryev Monastery. The cathedral was decorated with frescoes dating from the XII th-century and was built in the early part of the XII th-century.

The Cathedral of St. Sophia, built in the XI th-century, was one of the oldest monuments of Russian architecture, and an outstanding monument of world art. Because of its XII-century frescoes, its icons of XII-XVII centuries, its ancient iconostases and other interior decoration , this cathedral was a treasure house of ancient Russian art. The cathedral building was destroyed by the Germans ....

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... The Hitlerites robbed the cathedral of all interior decoration; carried off all the icons from the iconostases, and ancient incense-burners, amongst which was one which belonged to Boris Godunov ...

The Church of the Annunciation, built on 12th century foundations (crypt) with frescoes painted in the same century, was converted by the fascists into a fortified position and barracks. Embrasures were made in the alter-windows. In the southern semi-circle wooden overhead covers were built in the beams which were cut into the walls which were covered with ancient frescoes.

The frescoes of the southern semi-circle were knocked off from a considerable part of the wall

The Church of the Assumption in the Bolotov Polye, a monument of Novgorod architecture of 14-15th century, was turned by the Germans into a heap of stones and bricks, from which remnants of the wall protruded; the frescoes of this church, painted in the 14th century, were among the best mural paintings and were widely known.

The Church of the Saviours-Transfiguration in the Ilyin Street was one of the best samples of Novgorod architecture of 14 th century, specially famous for its frescoes painted in the same period by the great Bysantine master Feofan the Greek.

In the cupola of the church and in the upper part of the western wall the invaders cut wide embrasures, destroyed the western part of the building and the middle western vault, and rased the upper pointed vaults ---- .

A great part of the frescoes were destroyed and the remainder damaged by the Hitlerite soldiers.

The fascists barbarously destroyed that famous 12th century monument of ancient-russian and world art, the church of the Saviour-Mereditsa, covered within by world famous frescoes. The church was a unique example of Bysantine and Russian painting of the 12th century. The Germans turned the church into ruins. The destruction of this monument is the greatest loss to the culture of Russian and to the whole world.

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More than two years of Hitlerite misrule in Novgorod brought also the ruin of many other wonderful ancient Russian monuments ....

By the order of the commanding general of the 18th German Army, Lt-General Lindeman, the German barbarians dismantled and prepared for removal to Germany the monument "The thousand years of Russia." This monument was erected in the Kremlin Square in 1862 on the plan of the famous Russian sculptor the Academician Mikeshina and represented in its statuary the main stages of the development of our land up to the sixties of the 19th century..... the Hitler barbariams dismantled the monument and smashed its statuary. They did not succeed, however, in sending it more to melt the metal down. The Soviet soldiers threw them out of Novgorod ...

Dmitriyev Youriy Nikolaevich in his affidavit, gives a detailed account of the barberous destruction of the monuments of ancient Russian art by the Germans in the towns of Novgorod and Pskov.

Citizen Dmitriev was in 1937 the custodian of the Ancient-Russian Art Division of the State Russian Museum of Leningrad.

He began the study of the historical monuments of Novgorod and Pskov in 1926. As an great expert in this field of art, he was asked, by the Extraordinary State Commission to participate in the investigation of the crimes of the German-fascist invaders.

I submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-312 the original copy of the depositions of the citizen Dmitriyev, which was executed in accordance with the provisions of Russian legal procedure.

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In submitting his affidavit, I will omit facts already known to the Tribunal from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission previously prevented.

Mr. Dmitriev deposed as follows(I will now read an excerpt from page 2 of his deposition):

"The greater part of Novgorod is rased to the ground, only in a few districts were some traces of ruins left by the Germans. The German also destroyed Pskov. During their retreat they blew up buildings and monuments there. Out of 88 buildings of historic and art value in Novgorod, there remain but two buildings which are only slightly damaged ... Only a few isolated monuments in Pskov were left undamaged.

The Germans deliberately destroyed in Novgorod and Pskov monuments of historic and art value".

And further:(page 3 of the deposition):

"The German army, while destroying and damaging monuments of historic and art value, plundered and carried off. Many works of art and valuable objects which were part of or housed in these buildings.

The German troops profaned and desecrated many ecclesiastic monuments of historic and art value in Novgorod and Pskov".

Daily for 20 months the Hitlerites methodically destroyed the most ancient of all Russian cities, Smolensk.

The Soviet prosecution has presented to the Tribunal exhibit USSR-56, containing the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission "on destruction in the city of Smolensk, and crimes perpetrated by the German-Fascists invaders against Soviet citizens".

I will now read into the record a few excerpts from this report, concerning the destruction or ancient monuments, museums, educational and cultural institutions and schools.

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These excerpt are to be found in document-book on pages ...

"The destruction of schools, cultural and educational institutions, museums, and national monuments.

The German-fascists invaders destroyed, in Smolensk, institutes, technical schools, schools, they plundered the most valuable collections of museums, desecrated and burnt historic monuments. Text books and literature, visual aids and instruments exhibits and museum collections of inestimable value, the fascist sent to Germany. The wealthiest library of the teachers' institute of many hundred thousands of books, was immured in the basement, to save it from fire during bombing attacks. The German degenerates found out the library and burnt all books. The valuable literature, text-books, apparatus and instruments of the medical institute of foreign languages they transported to Germany. In April 1943 the German fascists scoundrels were in need of crushed stone. In order to get it, they blew up the No.23 high school, and used the rubble to repair a road.

During their retreat from Smolensk the German fascists invaders destroyed almost all educational institutions. They burnt down the buildings of the teachers' institute, stomatologic institute and the institute of agriculture, they destroyed the finance cooperative, railway technical schools and the electrical communications technical school, they burnt down and blew up 22 school 8 kinder-gartens, the regional central childrens library of the town of Zadneprovskaya, the Gorky memorial library and the first of May Machov library. 646 thousand books were destroyed in these libraries.

In the ancient city of Smolensk the most valuable monuments of her historic and cultural past were preserved. There were churches of the first period of stone constructions of the XII century. The Kremlin, one of the largest constructions of fortress architecture in the world, and many other monuments characteristic of the continuous further development of Russian national culture and art, up to our time.

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Before the German occupation, Smolensk had four museums containing the most valuable collections.

The Art Museum had one of the most extensive collections of Russian historical, sociological, and ethnographic treasures, such as pictures, icons, bronzes, porcelain, wrought ironwork, and fabrics. This collection of international value was displayed at the world's Fair in France. The Germans destroyed the museum and took the most valuable exhibits to Germany.

The Historical Museum in the building of the Bogoslov Church of the XII century, was thoroughly plundered while the building was partially blown up. The museum housed original objects characteristic of the life of the city and as a unique collection possessed extraordinary value.

The Museum of Natural History in the Gromovaya Tower of the Kremlin, housed the exhibits of the fauna and flora of the city of Smolensk. The fascist scoundrels destroyed the exhibits and used the building as barracks.

In the Petropavlovsk Church, dating back to 114 with additions made in 17th and 18th centuries, they burned the inter-story partitions and all the wooden parts of the construction. The Archangel (the Svirsk) Church dating back to 1194 was set on fire 28 June 1942.

The Church of Ivan-Bogoslov, constructed in 1180 with a wing added in 1770, was blown up during the German retreat from Smolensk.

Also destroyed were the fortress walls and towers fo the Kremlin dating back to 15 7-1.02.

The following churches were totally destroyed by the Germans: Spasskaia, built in the 17th century, Dukhovskaia of the 18th century, Pokrovskaia of the 19th. The Church of Vorkhne Nikolsk and the Vvedenskaia Church in the Avraam Monastery were blown up. The bronze statue of Kutuzov and the monori guns of 1812 were shipped to Germany.

Rosenberg's main office for the acquisition and export of valuables from the occupied regions of the East had a special branch in Smolensk, headed by Dr. Norling, the organizer of the plunder of museums and historical monuments.

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Such are some of the numerous facts of the crimes committed by the fascist barbarians, which demonstrate how the criminal plans of the Hitlerite conspirators were actually carried out.

C. Destruction and Plunder of Cultural and Historical Treasures and Cultural & Educational Establishments in Ukraine.

It is generally known with what cruelty and greed the German fascists carried out the economic plunder of the Ukrainian population. But the destruction and plunder of the Ukrainian cultural and historical treasures played no lesser part in the plans of Hitlerite conspirators, and was carried out with the same merciless zeal.

In accordance with their criminal plans for the enslavement of the freedom-loving Ukrainian people, the Hitlerite conspirators endeavoured to annihilate its culture.

From the very first days of their incursion into Ukraine, the Hitlerites, executing their criminal designs, embarked upon systematic destruction of schools, higher educational establishments, scientific establishments, museums, libraries, clubs, theatres.

At the same time, they plundered and destroyed kindergartens, hospitals and other state establishments of Public Health.

The historical and cultural treasures in the cities of Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa, in the Stalinsky and Voroshilovgrad provinces, and many other large and small towns, were subjected to destruction and plunder.

The [illegible] presented by the Soviet prosecution under No. USSR-32, which contains the sentence pronounced by the Military Tribunal.

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of the 4th Ukrainian Front on 15-18 December 1943, reveals that the German fascist armies, acting upon direct instructions of Hitler's Government, burnt and destroyed material and cultural treasures of the Soviet nation in the city of Kharkov and in the Kharkov Province. (This excerpt from the sentence can be found in the Document Volume No. 6-a, on page 359).

And now I pass on to the evidences of crimes committed by the Hitlerites in the capital of the Ukrainian Republic, i.e. in Kiev.

I quote one paragraph of the document presented by the Soviet prosecution under No. USSR-248. It can be found in the Document Volume No. 6-a, page 363, and contains an extract from the files of the Extraordinary State Commission "about the destruction and plunder by the fascist agressors of Kiev's Psychopatric Institute".

Amongst other destructions they - I quote:

"... burnt the archives of the Institute which were/ priceless from a scientific point of view, destroyed the first-class library of 20,000 volumes, plundered cultural reservation, a priceless monument of the XIth century, the famous Kirilovsky cathedral, which was on the grounds of the Institute..."

I next pass on to reading several excerpts from the Extraordinary State Commission's report on "destructions and atrocities committed by the German fascist agressors in the City of Kiev". This report is presented to the Tribunal as Document No. USSR-9 and the quoted excerpts will be found on pages 365-366 of Document Volume No. 6-a.

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"Before the German invasion there existed in Kiev 150 secondary and primary schools."

Out of this number, 77 schools were used by Germans as military barracks, 9 served as warehouses and workshops, two were occupied by military staffs,and eight were transformed into stables. At their retreat from Kiev, the German barbarians destroyed 140 schools.

The fascists closed down Kindergartens, plundered their property and utelized some of the buildingsfor billets. The Kindergartens Nr. 14,107 and 217 were transformed into stables, 27 Kindergartens were burnt down and 51 destroyed. They also demolished 13 children's homes, 4 palaces of culture, a teachers' home, a club of the Union of Workers of Political Enlightment.

The German occupieres plundered more than 4.000.000 volumes from the books of the Kiev Libraries. More than 320.000 various valuable and unique books, magazines and manuscripts were taken away to Germany by the Hitlerites from the library of the Ukrainia SSR Academy of Science."

I beg, Your Honors, to note that Dr. Foster, SS Obersturmfuehrer, who served in the special peurpose battalion established on the initiative of the Defendant Ribbentrop and acting under his orders, testified about the plundor of the Library of the Ukrainia SSR Aeademy of Science, in his deposition of 10 November 1942, already read into the record by me.

The facts mentioned by Forster in his statement are, therefore, corroborated by other evidence, including such irrefutable evidence as the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission.

I continne reading extracts from the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission:

".... On 5 September 1934, the Germans burnt and blew up one of the most ancient centres of the Ukrainian culture - the Shevtchenko State University in Kiev, founded in 1834, and built after a design by the architector Beretti senior. In the fire perished

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the greatest cultural treasures, treasures which for centuries had represented the scientific and educationed bases of the work of the university; gone, perished the inostimably valuable documents from the Archives of Ancient Manuscripts; perished the library containing 1,300,000 books, gone the Zoological Museum of the University with over 2 million exhibits and gone a whole number of other museums,..

... During the period of the occupation of the town, the fashist barbarians destroyed, burned and plundered the majority of the medical establishments.

In Kiev the fashist barbarians burned down the building of the Red Army Theater, holding 1,000 persons, the Theatrical Institute, the School of Music, where the instruments were burned together with the extremely wealthy library and all the equipment; they blew up the beautiful building of the circus, holding 2,500 persons; they burned down, with its entire equipment, the "M.Gorki" Theater for Juvenile Audiences; they destroyed the Jewish Theater... In the Museum of Western European and Eastern Art only some large linen sheets had been left: the robbers had not had time to remove them from the high walls of the stairway shafts. From the Museum of Russian Art the Hitlerites carried off, together with all the other exhibits, a collection of Russian Ikons of inestimable value. They looted the Museum of Ukrainian Art: only 1,900 exhibits of the original 41,000 exhibits were left . The Hitlerites carried away from Kiev Ukrainian pottery of the 18th, 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, including specimens of the work of the best known craftsmen such as F. Lavrenko, A. Gonchar, from the Province of Podolia, I. Panassiuko and others. They carried off tiles from the enamel plaque work of Bachmetyuk, the Potter, plundered the invaluable embroidery collection of the 18th, 19th and 20 th century, carried off a collection of national costumes and a rich collection of manuscripts, carried off 11,420 objects from the Department of Art and Commerce, including a collection of china from the Kiev-Mezhygorsk factory (1780-1798), 5,384 paintings, statues and objects made of graphite.

The Hitlerites plundered the historical and the "T.G. Shevchenko" museums. They looted that greatest monument of the Slav people - the Cathedral of St. Sophia, from which they removed fourteen XIIth century frescoes, including four frescoes from the walls of the "Michailovsky Zlatoverkh" Monastery, the valuable church plate and all the objects of worship.

By order of the German Command the troops plundered, blew up and destroyed the most ancient cultural monument - the Kievo-Pecherskaya Abbey ...

The Uspenski Cathedral, built in 1075-1089 by the Grand Duke Svyatoslav and painted inside in 1897 by the well-known painter V.V. Vereshchiagin, was blown up by the Germans on 3 November 1941. As a result of the explosion, the monument was badly damaged,

The main central part of the building, dating from the 11th century, together with the cupola, arches, the Western and Northern walls and the High Altar were transformed into a mass of debris ...

In October-December 1941, the Germans carried off from the Abbey the priceless exhibits of the Historical Museum, including the entire Armament Section which contained over 4.000 items, among which were such unique articles as the sword of Stephan Batory, a show-case of 16th century Dnieper Cossack weapons; they looted the extremely valuable exhibits of the Department of Ukrainian History of the 15th - 19th centuries; records, coins, seals, glass, porcelains, textiles; they robbed the Museum Archives of 15th-18th century deeds and of manuscripts of scholarly works ...

From the Scythian Section of the Historical Museum, the Hitlerite brigands stole the unique bronze animal statuettes, gold heads of emblems and standards, weapons, ceramics, household utensils; from the Department of the Black Sea Greek Colonies Cyprian ceramics - about 5,000 items, ceramics from Olvia; they carried off the exhibits from the "Kievan Russia" Section including unique objects such as the 10th century Cross from the High Altar of the Dessyatinnaya Church, tiles with the coats of arms of the Rurik dynasty and other valuable exhibits.

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"One cannot view" - reported Nicholas, Metropolitan of the Kiev and Galician diocese and member of the Extraordinary State Commission - "without sorrow, the heaps of rubble of the Uspenski Cathedral, created in the 11th century by the genius of its immortal builders. The explosions formed several huge craters in the area surrounding the Cathedral, and beholding them, it would appear that the very earth had shuddered at the sight of atrocities committed by those who no longer had any right to be called human beings. It was as if a terrific hurricane had rushed over the Cathedral, overturning everything, scattering and destroying the mighty buildings of the Cathedral. For over two years Kiev lay chained in the German shackles. The German hangmen brought with them death to Kiev, together with ruin, famine and executions. In time all this will pass out of the recent - into the far distant past, but never will the people of Russia and the Ukraine, or honest men all over the world, ever forget these crimes."

Your Honors! There is scarcely any need to produce further proof of the spoliation of cultural treasures by the Hitlerites in Kiev and Kharkov. Nevertheless I would ask your permission to submit two more documents. They are German documents and they are important confessions on the part of the Hitlerites themselves.

The first document, No. 035-PS, is dated the 25th October 1943 and entitled "A brief report on security measures of the main working group of the Ukraine during the retreat of the Armed Forces." Characteristic peculiarity: the document testifies without decorum to the looting; it is clear to any one that reference is made to a group of robbers, although the Hitlerites still persist in calling robbery work; the most valuable exhibits of the Ukrainian Museum they dispatch to Germany as "Miscellaneous Textiles."

The report begins with description of creating a safe corner for Einsatzstab establishments, for the purpose of which inhabitants of a whole district were thrown out of their flats and then follows a list of removed booty from plundered museums of Kharkov, Kiev, archievs and even house libraries.

I am quoting an excerpt from the document No.035-PS with relation to the materials of Ukraine and prehistorical museums of Kiev:

" 1 Oct. 43: Materials of the Ukrainian Museum in Kiev.

On the basis of the General evacuation orders of the city commissioner the following were sorted out by us and loaded for shipment to Krakau.

Textiles of all sorts
Collections of valuable embroidery patterns
Collections of brocades
Numerous items of wood, etc.

Moreover an essential part of the prehistoric museum was transported away."

The second document No.1109-PS of 17.6.44, is entitled: "Notes for leading group P4" and addressed to von Hilde Schroden.

This document is in the volume of documents No.6a on page 369 and is a short abstract and therefore I am quoting it in full:

" 2. The Removal of Cultural Property.

A great deal of material from museums, archives, institutions and other cultural institutions was taken out of and away from Kiev in the autumn of 1943, in the proper way.

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These actions to safeguard the material were carried out by the Special Purpose Staff RR as well as by the individual institute directors etc. at the instigation of the Reich Commissar.

At the beginning a great deal of the evacuated property was taken only to the rear areas; later on this material was forwarded to the Reich. When the undersigned, towards the end of September, received the mission from the cultural division of the Reich Commissar to take out of Kiev the remaining cultural effect, the most worthwhile materials from the cultural point of view had already been removed. During October some 40 carloads of cultural affects were shipped to the Reich.

In this case it was chiefly a question of valuables which belonged to the research institutions of the national Research Centre of the Ukraine. These institutions are continuing their work at the present time in the Reich and are being directed in such a manner that at a given moment they can be brought back into the Ukraine. The cultural valuables which could not be promptly safeguarded, were plundered. In this case, it was always a question, however, of less valuable material, as the principal valuables were taken away in accordance with orders.

In October 1943 factory, workshop etc. plants were taken out of Kiev by order of the Military Commander of the town, but/ to what place they were removed I do not know.

At the time of the entry of Soviet Russia there was nothing valuable in this respect left in the city.

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May it please Your Honors, from the documents submitted by the Soviet prosecution, the Tribunal has already learned about the criminal conspiracy between Hitler and Antonescu. As a reward for supplying Germany with cannonfodder, oil, wheat, cattle etc. Antonescu's criminal clique received from Hitler's government an authorization to plunder the civilian population between the Bug and the Dniestr. German and Rumanian brigands plundered and destroyed many objects of cultural value, health resorts, and medical institutions in Odessa. The Hitlerites plundered, with Antonescu's clique and they also plundered by themselves. To prove this I will now read into the record a few excerpts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented to the Tribunal as the exhibit USSR-47 (These excerpts are taken from document book 6a - page 372).

"German-Rumanian Occupational Authorities plundered and destroyed the cultural and educational institutions and the municipal Economy of Odessa.

Odessa - a large industrial city and a firstclass port, a city of advanced culture, a city of health-resorts. Before the German-Rumanian invasion there were 18 universities and colleges, 29 technical schools, 42 research institutes, 12 theaters, many libraries, clubs and many other cultural and educational institutions.

The German Military Command plundered the museums of Odessa, carrying away hundreds of unique objects - 200 paintings, 80 pieces of porcelaine, 60 pieces of bronze, 40 ancient weapons, 30 carpets, 10 pieces of carved ivory and other articles of museum value. (Protocol No. 22)"

This document further reads:

"According to their plan drawn up long in advance, the German-fascist conspirators

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destroyed a great part of Odessa's municipal economy. They blew up and bur 2290 of the largest buildings of architectural and historical value, among others: the House of the Red Army, the Odessa Post Office buildings, the Municipal Bank, the house of A.S.Pushkin, the Main railway station, the City Hospital, the Saban barracks built in 1827 and other representativ monuments of XIXth century culture.

The Hitlerites destroyed in Odessa health resorts and medical institutions.

The German-Rumanian invaders destroyed in Odessa: the first hospital for contageous diseases, the second district, the somatological, the psychiatric and two children's hospitals, a children's out-patients clinic, 7 well-baby clinics, 55 cribs, 2 maternity homes, a tuberculosis sanatorium, 1 leprosarium, 6 out-patient clinics, and the following research institutes: for the study of tuberculosis, for research into health resorts, and others. They destroyed 29 sanatoriums located around Odessa. "

The Hitlerites committed crimes on an exceptionally large scale in the Stalino region, which is one of the most important coal-mining and metalurgical center of the USSR.

During their occupation and their retreat, the German-fascist invaders almost entirely destroyed the coal-mining industry of the Stalino region removing to Germany the most valuable of the equipment.

They plundered and blew up not only mines and factories, but also destroyed clubs, Kindergartens, restaurants, schools, stores and recreational parks.

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The report of the Extraordinary State Commission on the "Damages caused by the German fascist aggressors to manufacturing, urban economy, cultural & educational establishments of the Stalinsky province", presented by the Soviet prosecution under No. USSR-2, relates numerous facts.

I shall confine myself to several excerpts from the above-mentioned document, which have not yet been read into the record by my colleagues. They can be found in the Document Volume No.6-a, pages 374-375.

I quote:

"At their retreat from Stalino, the Hitlerites completely destroyed 113 schools, 62 kindergartens, 390 shops, the Winter and the Summer theatres with 1,100 seats, the Palace of the Pioners, radio-theatre, the Museum of the Revolution, the Picture Gallery, Dzerjinsky Club and several other of the best town buildings.

Special detachments of engineers went from one school to another, spreading incendiary liquid and setting fire to them. The Soviet people who tried to extinguish the fires were shot on the spot by the fascist bandits.

Irreparable damages were caused by the occupation authorities to the medical establishments of the town.

They burnt down and completely destroyed the Children's hospital with 2,000 beds, the Voroshilov clinic with 1,000 beds, 12 medical institutions with 2,000 beds and 5 policlinics. The German occupants plundered the precious hospital apparatusos, equipment and instruments. The destruction of the hospitals was carried out under the instructions and with the participation of the Chief Medical officer of the Military Hospital, Trommer, and the Deputy of the City Commandant, the Military Advisor, Narouschat. The Medical Institute, this first-class scientific establishment for 2,000 students, was plundered on the orders of the Oberfeldartzt Roll, the Chief Medical officer, Belindorf, and the Chief Physician Kuchendorf.

530,000 volumes of the total 600,000 books of scientific and art literature, were burnt by the Hitlerites.

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In all the industrial cities of Stalinsky province, the Hitlerites burnt down schools and theatres, destroyed creches and hospitals, and even churches. Thus, in the town of Gorlovka -

I quote :

> "They destroyed 32 schools, attended by some 21,649 pupils, burnt down the town hospital, five polyclinics, a church and the Palace of Culture."

In the town of Yenakievo, the Hitlerites - side by side with the destruction of industrial and urban economy establishments,

> "blew up and burnt the Palace of the Pioneers, a cinema for 1.000 spectators, the First and the Second Hospitals, and the Tubercular Hospital, the Sanatorium for Tuberculosis of the Bone, two town polyclinics, and other medical establishments. The best shops in the town were utilized, during the occupation, as garages and stables, and were burnt down at the retreat of the German army."

In the city of Konstantinovka -

> "the occupation authorities blew up and burnt all the 25 city schools, two movie theatres, the principal city library with 35.000 volumes, the club of the pioneers, the children's technical school, the city hospital, the infants' creches".

Before their retreat from Mariupol -

> "the German occupation authorities burnt down all the 68 schools of the city, 17 kindergartens, the Palace of Pioneers."

I now pass on to reading excerpts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission of May 1944 on the "Destructions, plundering and atrocities perpetrated by the German fascist aggressors and their accomplices in the city of Kovno and in the Kovensky province".

This document is submitted to the Tribunal under # USSR-45, and excerpts from this report can be found in the Document Volume # 6-a on page 378.

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The City of Rovno was especially important. It was the residence of the Reichsminister Erich Koch, closest collaborator of the Defendant Rosenberg, and numerous conferences of the Hitlerite leaders for working out in detail the plans for the enslavement of the Ukrainian people, took place in this city.

The above-mentioned report of the Extraordinary State Commission states as follows:

"... On the Ukrainian territory seized by them, the Hitlerite bandits endeavoured to establish a regime of slavery and serfdom, and to annihilate the Ukrainian statehood and culture.

The Extraordinary Commission has numerous documents at its disposal based on the depositions of witnesses, personal inspection by members of the Commission and their reports on the state of various cultural and educational establishments in the Ukrainian territory liberated by the Red Army; these documents do not leave any doubt of the fact that the German fascist barbarians intended to annihilate the Ukrainian culture and exterminate the leading representatives of the Ukrainian art and science who fell into their hands. The Hitlerites pitilessly destroyed schools, universities, clubs, libraries, museums, theatres - built by the Ukrainian people in the course of nearly twenty-five years under the Soviet Government. This is proved, in particular, by facts established by the Extraordinary Commission in the City of Rovno and the Rovenski Province. The German-fascist aggressors closed down nearly all the cultural and educational establishments in Rovno. On 30 November 1941 the closing down of schools in the General-Kommissariat of Volyn and Podol was officially announced by the newspaper "Volyn".

Retreating under the attacks of the Red Army, the Hitlerites burnt, blew up and destroyed schools, museums and other cultural and educational institutions. In this way, when they retreated from Rovno, they destroyed the Pedagogic Institute, seriously damaged the Kraevedchesky museum and hundreds of schools, libraries, hospitals, clubs, etc..."

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The Extraordinary State Commission established that the Germans plundered the property of the Cultural and Educational Establishments.

I consider it necessary to read also the conclusion of the Extraordinary State Commission's report :

"The fact that all these crimes were committed in the residence of the former Reichskommissar for Ukraine, Erich Koch, serves as an additional proof that all the crimes of the Hitlerite bandits were perpetrated in execution of a plan for the extermination of Soviet people and the devastation of the Soviet territories temporarily occupied by the Hitlerites, a plan which has been conceived and worked out by Hitler's Government."

D. DESTRUCTION AND PLUNDER OF CULTURAL TREASURES OF THE CAPITAL OF BYELORUSSIAN REPUBLIC - THE CITY OF MINSK.

In Count 5 of his Opening Statement, General Rudenko, the Chief Prosecutor for the USSR, quoted an extract from a letter of the General Kommissar for Beylorussia Kube, addressed to the Defendant Rosenberg. Dec. 29, 1941

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This document is registered under #1099-PS and I present it to the Tribunal as proof of the enormous proportions reached by the wide spread destruction and plunder of historical treasures by the Hitlerites.

I shall quote in addition several other extracts from this document, which discloses also the fact that the plundered treasures were not only removed to Germany, but were also stolen by individual Generals of Hitler's army.

Kube's letter reveals also the existence of a previously worked-out plan for the plunder of cultural treasures of Leningrad, Moscow and the Ukrainian cultural centres.

The vandalism of the Hitlerites reached such proportions that even Kube, this hangman of Byelorussian people, protested. He was afraid to miss some chance of profit andnegotiated with Rosenberg for a compensation.

I quote the second paragraph from the beginning of the letter:

"Minsk had a large, in part very valuable, collection of art treasures and paintings which were removed almost in their entirety. On an order of the Reichsfuehrer SS, Reichsleiter Heinrich HIMMLER, most of the paintings, some still during my term of office, were packed by the SS and shipped to the Reich. They are worth several millions of marks and were all taken from the general district of White Ruthenia (Byelorussia). The paintings were supposedly sent to Linz and to Koenigsberg in East Prussia. I beg to have these valuable collections, insofar as they are not needed in the Reich, again placed at the disposal of the general district of White Ruthenia (Byelorussia), in any case however to have the money value secured for the Ministry of the Occupied Eastern Territories."

Kube, as well as the Defendant Rosenberg, decided that the right to the stolen treasures was his monopoly, and complained that (I quote 2nd part of the second paragraph):

"General Stubenrauch has taken a valuable part from Minsk with him up to the front. "Sonderfuehrer" whose names have not yet been reported to me, have carried away furniture, paintings and art objects ... in 3 trucks, without giving a receipt".

Having robbed together with other fascist leaders the people of Byelorussia, having taken part directly in mass ill-treatment and extermination of the Soviet population, Kube with hypocrisy declared (I quote the last paragraph of the letter):

"White Ruthenia (Byelorussia), already rather poor, has suffered a heavy loss through these actions".

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And Kube recommended to Rosenberg:

"It is possible that specialists should be appointed beforehand for directing these "measures" in Leningrad and Moscow, as well as in some of the ancient Ukrainian cultural centers".

So that's where their desires were directed! It is now universally known what meaning the Hitlerites gave to the word "measures" as applied to the occupied territories. It meant a regime of bloody terror, violence, unrestricted plunder and despotism.

Having burst into Minsk - the capital of the Byelorussian Republic, the German-fascist plunderers tried to annihilate the culture of the Byelorussian people and transfer them into obedient German slaves.

As has been stablished by special investigation, the Hitlerite Military Authorities acting on direct orders of the German Government, destroyed relentlessly scientific research institutes and schools, theatres and clubs, hospitals and polyclinics, kindergardens and crèches.

I am reading into record an excerpt from the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission of 9 September 1944, presented as Exhibit No. USSR-38 (this excerpt is contained in the volume of documents No. 6a, page 384):

"For three years, the German-Fascist invaders set themselves systematically to destroy the scientific research institutes, institutions of higher education, libraries, museums, institutions of the Academy of Sciences, theatres and clubs of Minsk.

The Lenin Library, in Minsk, was the creation of more than 20 years. In 1932 the construction of a new building with a large, well-equipped book depository was completed. The Germans carried away from the library to Berlin and Koenigsberg one and a-half million most valuable volumes, including many on the history of Byelorussia, a collection of old editions by Georgi Skorina, a first edition of the Lithuanian Statute, and collections of MSS by Yanka Kupala, Maxim Bagdanovich and Zmitrak Byadula.

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In the effort to eradicate the culture of the Byelorussian people the German-Fascist invaders destroyed all the cultural and educational enstitutions in Minsk. Representatives of the German General Commissariat - the chief for so-called "Cultural Affairs", Doctor Siwitza, Doctor Rachel, Doctor Mueller, Doctor Koch and Doctor Mach - carried away to Germany the libraries of the Academy of Sciences, totalling 300,000 volumes, of the State University, of the Polytechnic Institute, the Scientific Medical Library and the Pushkin City Public Library.

The Hitlerites destroyed the Byelorussian State University, the Zoological, Geological-Mineralogical and Historico-Archaeological Museums, and the Medical Institute with all its clinics; they demolished the Academy of Sciences with its nine Institutes, its Zoological and Geological Museums and Botanical Gardens; they destroyed the Minsk Polytechnical Institute, where about 9,000 students used to study, as well as the State Philharmonic and Conservatory. Like-wise they destroyed the State Art Gallery and carried away to Germany canvasses and sculptures by Russian and Byelorussian masters - Repin, Rivazovsky, Perov, Bogolyubov, Kozlovsky, Brazer, Assgur and Kerzin; they ransacked the State Byelorussian Theatre of Opera and Ballet, the First Byelorussian Drama Theatre, the House of Folk Art and the Houses of the Unions of Writers, Artists and Composers.

In Minsk the fascists destroyed 47 schools, 24 kindergartens, the Palace of Pioneers, two lying-in homes, three children's hospitals, five city polyclinics, 27 nurseries, four children's welfare centers and the Institute of Infant and Maternity Welfare.

The prosecution has at its disposal the documents No. 076-PS, which is a report of German corporal Abel "Minsk Libraries" (to be found in the volume of documents No. 6-a on pages 385-388)

This corporal has examined all Minsk libraries and says in his report that almost all of them are destroyed.

I think that it will be sufficient to read separate excerpts from the report.

Thus, the first page of the report reads as follows:

R.

". . . The Lenin library was the central Byelorussian library. It is difficult to draw up an exact inventary of the volumes but the number of books was approximately 1.500.000.... The book shelves are in a sad state . . . .

On page 2:

"The Gorky library....This was a collection of some of the most precious items from all spheres of science.
....The library was a plundered already before my arrival and a plate was fixed above the entrance door, stating - " Requisitioned for the Armed Forces "....

On page 3:

"The University library.... It is supposed to contain some 100.000 volumes, but - in reality - the number of books has considerably diminished.

There are inscriptions stating " Requisitioned for the German Armed Forces", on the doors of the emptied library.

On the same page:

"The library of the Polytechnical Institute, which was in the basement of the left wing, was considerably plundered and put into disorder, as well as a great number of laboratories".

The Report concludes with the following sentence, which I quote;

"The purpose of this report can only be reached by presenting it for consideration to the Supreme Command which would issue appropriate orders, forbidding clearly the German soldier to behave in future like a barbarian."

But such orders were never issued - could never have been issued, because fascism is inseparable from barbarism, in fact fascism <u>means</u> barbarism.

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E. The destruction of the cultural values of the people of Lithuania, Esthonia and Latvia.

Having occupied the Lithuanian, Esthonian and Latvian Soviet Republics, the German-fascist invaders tried to make a German colony out of the Soviet Baltic Provinces, and to enslave the people of these republics. The criminal design of the Hitlerite government found its full expression in universal plunder, general destruction, violence and mockeries; in mass murder of old men, women and children.

The Hitlerites, in order to germanize the people of the Lithunian, Esthonian and Latvian Soviet Socialist Republics, destroyed by every possible means the culture of the peoples of these Republics. They destroyed and plundered schools and universities, libraries and museums, theaters and historic monuments.

I begin my presentation of the evidence by reading into the record a few excerpts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, "on the crimes perpetrated by the Hitlerite invaders in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic", which was submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-7. I quote:

"The Hitlerites tried to destroy Lithuanian culture. The Lithuanian Republic, during the year under the Soviet regime, was given large opportunities for greater progress in the field of Lithuanian culture. Many new educational institutions were opened,

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a net-work of new schools was developed, a State Philarmonic Society, the Palace of Peoples creative Art, were founded; the Academy ot Arts in Vilnius and the Institute of Arts and Crafts in Kaunas were inaugurated. The Lithuanian writers, painters and composers were organised into unions. As soon as the invasion took place the German occupational authorities destroyed the Lithuanian cultural institutions. They closed the Philarmonic Society, the Conservatory in Kaunas, the Academy of Arts in Vilnills and the Institute of Arts and Crafts. They closed all art schools, and disbanded all art workers unions.

On 17 March 1943, the Gestapo agents surrounded the building of the old University in Vilnius, broke all statues and sculptural ornaments, tore the paintings to pieces, stole the exhibits, valuable educational accessories, scientific literature, epidioscopes electromotors, tools, and other scientific and educational accessory equipment. They carried away to Germany 1743 grammes of platinum. The German "scholars", Doctors Mueller and Gulp, took an active part in the plunder of the University.

Another large Lithuanian State University and the Chemical Institute met with the same fate. The Germans destroyed 14 gymnasiums and 4 first grade schools in Vilnius and Kaunas, as well as educational institutions in Seduliai, Mariampol, Panevezis and Ukmerge. They blew up and destroyed the Academy of Agriculture, the college of Agriculture and 7 schools of Agriculture.

The Germans stole from the library of the Academy of Arts, 743 books of the oldest and rarest editions, a collection of historic gold and silver medals. The widely known Jewish cultural institutions were razed to the groun ; 1.) The M. Strashun Library, 2.) the Jewish Research Institute of the Academy of Science of Lithuanian SSR, 3.) the Historic Ethnographic Museum. Ten thousand copies of ancient editions of the XVth, XVIth and XVIIth centuries were moved to Berlin,(Bismarckstrasse,I). The German invaders sent to Frankfurt-on-Main valuable paintings by Repin, Lavitan, Mark Shagal; sculptur by M. Antzkolsky, Ginzburg, Aronson, A.Treger; the manuscripts and letters of Maxim Gorky, Leo Tolstoy, Romain Rolland, Sholom-Aleinem, and other. During their retreat the Hitlerites burnt

in Lithuania, the oldest library of the Evangelical-Reformed Synod, founded in 1611, and containing 30,000 volumes of unique books of the XVIth, XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries".

The Hitlerite criminals destroyed pitilessly the national culture of the Esthonian people, and cruelly persecuted and destroyed the Esthonian intelligenzia.

The report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-39: "On the crimes of German-fascist invaders perpetrated in the Esthonian Soviet Socialist Republic," shows (I read from page 394 of document book six):

> "The German forces of occupation have destroyed the culture and the historic monuments of the Esthonian people.

Having turned Esthonia into a German colony, the fascists enslavers could not leave its culture to the Estonian people.

To begin with the occupation authorities undertook a "cleansing" of libraries. The secret circular by the "Director of Enlightment" 9 December 1941, ordered the removal from all libraries of: Soviet literature, from 1917 to 1941, Esthonian literature for 1940 and 1941, besides, all the works without exception of the following poets and writers: Alle, Antson, Barbarus, Hiyr, Aint, Jackobson, Yurna, Kippel, Kyerner, Raud, Semper and Tammsaan.

In the squares of Esthonian cities pyres began to burn turning into ashes the treasures of Esthonian national genius and the best literary works of the peoples of Europe.

The writers and poets, caught in the net of the fascists, were not allowed to print their works. Almost all the paintings and sculptures by Esthonian national artists disappeared from Esthonia. The German removed more than 10,000 words of art from Esthonia to Germany. They burnt down in the Raadi Estate, near Tartu, the Esthonian National Museum.

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....."The Germans allowed the theater "Estonia" to produce operas and operettas only in German.

Before their retreat, the Germans set fire to the theatres in Tartu ("Vanemuine"), Narva ("Vytleya"), Vilyandi ("Ougala"), Piarnu ("Endla"). They destroyed historical monuments of Estonian architecture: the central part of the City of Narva with its houses built in the XVIIth century, and the beautiful ensemble of the Square before the Town Hall, with its historical buildings and two churches; the house of Peter the Great in Narva - the Swedish fort and the "Ivangorod", in Tarta they destroyed the Tower of St, John, built in the XIVth century; in Piarny - a very fine historical memorial of the XIVth century, the Nicolaevsky church.

The Hitlerites plundered and partly destroyed the Tartu University, famous for its glorius past, more than 300 years old, and which is the most ancient University in the country." The Hitlerite aggressors did not hesitate to commit any crimes, in order to germanize the Latvian population.

They forbid the use of Latvian language, annihilated and plundered priceless monuments of culture, destroyed schools and museums.

They stole and burnt down, plundered and blew up all that was precious to the Latvian people.

The capital of the Soviet Latvia - Riga, they declared the capital of "Ostland" ("Eastern Territory") and the seat of Rosenberg's Staff. The Report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented by the Soviet prosecution, as document USSR-41, cites numerous such facts, but they are, nevertheless, quite inadequate to give a complete picture of all the crimes committed by the German fascist aggressors against the culture of the Latvian people.

I quote the Section of the Extraordinary State Commission's Report, entitled;

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"The German Aggressors devastated towns, plundered Scientific, Cultural and Art Establishments in Latvia.".

In the course of more than three years, the German aggressors destroyed enterprises, municipal property, libraries, museums, and homes in the towns of Latvia. The Hitlerites endeavoured to annihilate all that was connected with the national traditions of the Latvian people. Streets and avenues in the City of Riga, which were called after Latvian writers and social leaders - Rainiss, Valdemar and others, were to be called by German names. The street of Brivibas (Freedom) was to be called the street of Adolf Hitler, German was declared the official language.

The German aggressors plundered priceless libraries in Latvia. In Riga, they destroyed eight buildings of the state library, and transformed the building on the Anglikansky street - which was a fine monument of the XIIIth-XIVth century architecture - into a military barrack. Rosenberg's staff carried away 100.000 volumes of books and 70 cases of ancient periodicals and precious monographs.

The Germans burnt down the town library, founded in 1524, where some extremely valuable books and manuscripts were kept. About 800.000 bibliographical items perished in this library, which was an enormous loss to the Latvian people's national culture.

The Hitlerites transformed the picture gallery of the Riga City Museum, into a storage-house and a barracks, whilst they carried away to Germany pictures by famous Latvian, Russian and foreign artist. Numerous pictures of Latvian artists - Rosentahl, Straland and others, were plundered by the representatives of the German occupation authorities.

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The Germans plundered the Academy of Arts, the State Academy of Music, the conservatoire, and transformed them into barracks; they blew up the building of the former Professional Centre, with a spacious concert hall; they destroyed 65 schools in Riga. The exhibits of the State Historical, the Riga Doumski and the war-historical museums were taken away by them to Germany.

Numerous representatives of the Latvian educated classes were thrown by the Germans into prisons and concentration camps, tortured to death in the Gestapo torture chambers or shot.

Defendant ROSENBERG, the former Reichsminister, played a prominent part in these heinous crimes against the peoples of the Soviet Baltic States.

The Defendant Rosenberg continued plundering even at a time when it became evident that the unavoidable collapse of fascist Germany was imminent, and that the hour of the just and stern trial of the Hitlerite criminals was approaching.

As late as the end of August 1944, Rosenberg organized and executed the plundering of cultural riches of Riga and Revel, Derpt and a series of other towns of the Estonian Republic.

I draw the attention of the Tribunal to the document No. 161-PS of 23 August 1944, entitled "instruction" and signed by Utikal, the Chief of Rosenberg's Staff.

This Document, which can be found in the Document Volume 6-a on page 400, states as follows:

"On 21.8.44, the Reich leader, Alfred Rosenberg, summoned Friedrich Schiller from the headquarters of the Chief-of-Staff, to report to him on the existing possibilities for the evacuation of cultural treasures from the Eastern territories. On the basis of this report, the Reich leader decided that the most precious cultural riches of the Ostland can still be evacuated by his staff, insofar as

it is possible without detriment to the needs of the field troops.

The Reichsleiter considers the following specially important:

From Riga - the City's archives

the state archives (the major part in Kwalone) .

From Reval - the City's archives

the Esthonian Library Society, small articles

from town Hall.

From Dorpat - articles from the evangelical Lutheran consistory and the church of St. Nicholas
the University library.

From Esthonian treasures - articles which were in Erlen, Wolye,

Weissenstein, Taohless .

The removal operations are entrusted to Chief of Mobilization, Schiller, as the future head of the main opretional group "Ost" of Rosenberg's Staff.

He is advised to maintain special contact with group "North" in order to co-ordinate the execution of the tasks imposed by the Reichsleiter with the transportation requirements of the field forces".

May I drew the attention of the Tribunal to another peculiar circumstance.

Also in this case the looting was carried out by Rosenberg and the military command.

Even in the fall of 1944 future chiefs' of Rosenberg's staff were selected.

The analysis of all these circumstances permits the categorical re-statement of the assertion that the destruction and looting of cultural treasures was inspired,

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directed and carried out by one central organization and this central organization was the criminal Hitlerite Government and the High Command, the representatives of which, in the persons of all the defendants before this Tribunal, should suffer punishment in accordance with article of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal.

May it please Your Honors, when we deal with a system of wholesale destruction and plunder it is impossible and hardly necessary to enumerate all the facts, even if these facts are in themselves very important.

In the occupied territories of the Soviet Union the Hitlerites carried out just such a system of destruction and plunder of cultural treasures of the peoples of the USSR - a system so vast and so manifold in its methods. At this moment it is not yet possible to drew up a final balance of the defendant's crimes.

But I will quote a document containing data which, although only preliminary are absolutely exact, and bear witness to the tremendous damage caused by the Hitlerites.

I have in view the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission "Material damage caused by the German fascist invaders to state enterprises and institutions, co-operative farms, public organisations and to the citizens of the USSR", which was submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-35.

I will now quote from this document only a few excerpts which bear on the subject of my presentation and which have not yet been read into the record. (pages 401-405 of document book 6a).

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" I. Destruction of cultural and communal institutions, social organisations and co-operatives.

In the occupied part of the Soviet Union, the German invaders destroyed stores and shops, clubs, stadiums, convalescent homes and sanatoria belonging to consumers' and producers' co-operatives, trade -unions and other social organisations.

They destroyed over 87,000 industrial buildings belonging to co-operatives, trade-unions and other social organisations, 10,000 residential buildings, and 1,839 cultural institutions, and about 8 million books.

Out of the property of the trade unions, the German invaders completely destroyed 120 sanatoria and 150 convalescent homes, in which over 3 million workers engineers, technicians and other employees got treatment and rest every year. Of this total figure they destroyed 59 sanatoria and convalescent homes, with 11,900 beds in the Crimea, 32 sanatoria and convalescent homes, with 5,400 beds, at the mineral baths in the Caucasus, 33 sanatoria and convalescent homes with 7,700 beds in the Leningrad area and 88 sanatoria and convalescent homes with 16,700 beds in the Ukraine.

The German Fascist invaders destroyed the buildings of 46 pioneers' and children's summer camps which belong to the trade-unions.

They destroyed 169 clubs and palaces of culture.

2. Destruction of Schools, Scientific Institutions and Health Protection Centres.

The Fascist German intruders inflicted tremendous damage on the cultural places of the Soviet people. They destroyed Schools, universities, scientific institutes, libraries, hospitals, sanatoria and convalescent homes.

In the part of the Soviet Union which was occupied by the Germans, there were, at the beginning of 1941,

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82,000 elementary and secondary schools with 15 million pupils. All secondary schools possessed libraries, each with from 2,000 to 25,000 volumes, many schools had Physics, Chemistry, Biology and other class rooms installed. Many secondary schools had living rooms to accommodate children who lived far away. The Fascist German intruders burnt, destroyed or plundered these schools with their entire property and the whole of their equipment. Millions of Soviet children had to cease learning and take up their lessons again after the intruders had been driven out, in schools which were not equipped and from which the necessary supply of books and demonstration material was missing.

The Fascist German intruders entirely or partially destroyed 334 universities at which 233,000 persons were studying and transported to Germany the equipment of the laboratories and lecture rooms and the rarities from the collections of the universities and institutes, as well as the libraries.

Great damage was done to the medical colleges.

The occupiers destroyed 137 pedagogical and teachers' institutes.

They removed historical archives and old manuscripts from the special libraries, they stole or destroyed over 100 million volumes from public libraries.

The Fascist German intruders intentionally destroyed scientific institutes, they burnt to the ground or devastated laboratories and libraries, they stole their most precious contents and their best equipment. In all they destroyed 605 scientific research institutes.

In the neighbourhood of Leningrad, the Germans destroyed the main observatory at Pulkov. The observatory was equipped with exceedingly rare instruments which had been made by the foremost masters of the Soviet Union and the whole world. In the observatory there was an excellent sun telescope, an original construction by the holder of the Stalin prize, Ponomaryov.

In the Crimea, the Fascist German intruders destroyed the Simeis observatory which was built in 1908,

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and sent its equipment away to Germany; a large 40 inch reflector telescope, measuring instruments and the libraty, with over 9,000 negatives of photographs of the heavens, and of the astral spectra.

The Germans caused enormous damage to the Spas of the Soviet Union. They destroyed or plundered 6,000 hospitals, 33,000 polyclinics, medical care centres and dispensaries 976 sanatoria and 656 convalescent homes. They also destroyed 60 factories of the chemical-pharmaceutical industry and factories producing medical instruments.

As a result of the criminal activities of the Fascists, numerous Sanatoria and other institutions in the Spas of the Union health centres on the south coast of the Crimea, at the Caucasian mineral baths and in many other places, were particularly severely damaged, and the places in which some millions of working people received medical treatment and cure every year, were laid in ruins.

They cut down the trees in the Crimean forests and parks in the vicinity of the Sanatoria and on the Ai-Petri Hill, as well as tree nurseries with planting material for the upkeep of forests.

3. Destruction of Museums and historical monuments.

The Fascist German intruders destroyed 427 out of a total of 992 museums of the Soviet Union in the occupied territory.

The German intruders destroyed more than 150,000 exhibits and collections relating to the history of the peoples of the Black Sea area at the historical-archaeological museum at Kharson.

At Kertch harbour the Germans destroyed the picture "The attack on Perekop", by Soviet painters. The famous picture "The defence of Sebastopol", painted by Rubo, a member of the Academy, was badly damaged. All art galleries of the Crimean peninsula sustained losses; the collections of the Bakhtchisarai palace museum were plundered, amongst them the richly ornamented great Qur'an of the Khan's mosque at Bakhtchisarai.

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The Germans also destroyed the museum of the peasant poet S.D.Droshshin in the village of Zavidovo, the museum of the popular poet I.S. Nikitin at Voronesh and the museum of the famous Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz at Novogrudek in the White Russian S.S.R. At Alagir they burned the manuscripts of the Ossetian popular singer, Kosta Khetagurov.

The Fascist German intruders destroyed 44.000 theatres, clubs and "Red Corners".

V. DESTRUCTION AND SPOLIATION OF CONVENTS, CHURCHES, AND OTHER PLACES OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES.

I must now dwell, Your Honors, on one more category of crimes committed by the Hitlerites - the spoliation and destruction of churches, convents, and other places of religious observances.

These crimes, together with those already described, were committed for the purpose of plundering, which was the key motive of all the plans of the Hitlerite conspirators. Whilst they destroyed convents, churches and synagogues, the Hitlerite aggressors insulted,at the same time, the religious feelings of the people.

These blasphemous crimes were systematically perpetrated on the whole of the territory, temporarily under German power.

Soldiers and officers organized bloody orgies in places of worship, kept horses and dogs in churches, put on church vestments and made bunks for sleeping out of icons.

I have no time to read all the numerous documents which are at the disposal of the Soviet prosecution, and shall confine myself to an extract from the Statement of the USSR People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, V.M. Molotov, on 27 April 1942, to a memorandum of the Extraordinary State Commission drawn up on the basis of its documents and to an album with some photographs,

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presented to the Tribunal, as Document No. USSR-99.

In the Statement of the People's Commissar, V.M. Molotov, of 27.IV 42, which has already been presented to the Tribunal as Document No. USSR-51/3, and extracts from which I have already quoted, it is stated that:

"The Hitlerite invaders do not spare the religious sentiments of believers among the Soviet population. They have burnt, looted, blown up and defiled hundreds of churches on Soviet territory, including several irreplaceable monuments of ancient church architecture. In 13 districts of the Moscow Region the invaders have destroyed 42 churches. In the ancient Russian town of Staritsa the Hitlerites set fire to a monastery built in the sixteenth century, in whose buildings advancing units of the Red Army discovered heaps of stripped corpses of tortured Red Armymen who had been taken prisoner.

From the village of Iklinskoye in the Moscow Region, the Reverend Amvrosy Ivanov writes:

"Before the arrival of the Germans the church was in complete order. At the command of a German officer I had to take everything out of the church ... The troops arrived at night, occupied the church, brought their horses in ... Then they began to smash and break everything in the church and to build bunks. They threw out everything: the altar, the holy doors and banners, the vestments. In a word, the church was made a thieves' den."

The cathedral in the town of Vereya was first looted by the invaders, who stole all the church utensils, and was then turned into a torture chamber in which after the flight of the Germans 26 mutilated corpses of Red Armymen were found. The Germans stole the surplices from the church in the village of Troitskoye and used them as horse blankets.

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In the village of Gosteshevo the Germans plundered the church, smashed the holy banners, threw the books about, robbed the Reverend Mikhail Strakhov and led him off with them to another district. In the village of Kholm, near Mozhaisk, the Germans robbed and beat up an 82-year-old local clergyman. In retreating from Mozhaisk the Germans blew up the Church of the Ascension, Trinity Church and the Cathedral of Nicholas the Miracle Worker. As a rule, before their retreat the Germans drive part of the population of villages that they have destroyed by fire into houses of worship, lock the people up in them and then set fire to these buildings".

I am now quoting an extract from page 12 of the record of the interrogation of U.N. Dmitriev (record submitted to the Tribunal as Document No. USSR-312):

" ... In a side-altar of the Znamensky Cathedral, the Germans set up a lavatory for the soldiers who lived in the crypt of the Cathedral.

The Church of the Prophet Elijah in the Slavna was transformed into a stable.

The following Pskov churches were also transformed into stables: Bogoyavlenie on Zapskovie, Kozma and Demian on the Gremiatchy Hill, Constantin and Helen, and the Church of St.John the Evangelist".

The Extraordinary State Commission's report of 5.IV 43 (this document is presented to the Tribunal under No. USSR-279) describes facts of blasphemous mockery which took place in the town of Gjatsk where the churches were transformed by the Germans into stables and ware-houses.

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In the Church of the Annunciation the Germans set up a slaughter-house for cattle.

The memorandum of the Extraordinary State Commission concerning the "destruction of ecclesiastical buildings" which I submit in evidence as exhibit USSR-246, states as followes: the German-fascist invaders completely destroyed or partly damaged 1670 churches, 69 chapels, 237 roman-catholic cathedrals, 4 mosques, 532 synagogues and 254 other ecclesiastical buildings.

I will now read into the record an excerpt from this document:

"No monetary compensation by the Germans can ever make good the destruction of ecclesiastical buildings, the most ancient historical monuments, as the majority of them can never be restored.

The old Borisoglebsky cathedral in Chernigov, built at the beginning of the XIIth century is largely destroyed. In the same town the church of "Paraskeva-Piatnitza at the Market" - the most precious monument of XII century Russian architecture, is completely destroyed. The Germans set up an observation post in the Usnensky cathedral of the XIIth century of the Eletsky monastery and cut embrasures into the walls of that ancient cathedral.

The Spaso-Preobrashensky cathedral in Chernigov

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built in 1070 was damaged by enemy bombardment.

The Polotzky cathedral of the Efrosinyev monastery, built in 1160, was badly damaged by explosions and bombardment by the Germans.

Enormous, almost irreparable destruction was caused to the famous Novo--Ierusalimsky and Iossifo-Volokolamsky monasteries in the Moskow region. The former was founded by Patriarch Nikon in 1656 and its founder intended it to be the symbol of the political power, the peculiar culture and the independence of the Russian State. The second was founded at the end of the XVth century. Both monasteries were not only destroyed, but looted as well.

An indiscribable devastation was caused to the Tikhvinsky monastery in the Leningrad region. Three ancient churches and five wings of the monastery were blown up, to conceal the traces of plunder.

Such antiquities as the cathedral of the Kirillov monastery, built in the XIIth sentury, the church of Nikola "at the Lipka" built in the XIII sentury, the Church of the Annuciation "at the Gorodistche" dating from the XIII century, were completely destroyed by aimed artillery fire.

Enormous destruction was caused by Germans to the five churches, which were part of the Pskov-Pechersky monastery, the most precious monuments among the ancient russian monasteries, reflecting in themselves the period of development of the Pskov architecture built in the XVIth century by serf labor.

Many ancient churches, monuments of olden days, were destroyed by the German invader in Byelo-Russia. Then in the town of Vitebsk was destroyed the church of Nativity, an interesting monument of Byelorussian architecture of the XVIIth century. Completely destroyed were the wooden Bogoslovskaya and Nikolskaya churches, built in the XVIIIth century.

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Irreparable damage was done to the Voskresensko-Zarutskyl church which was built in the 16th Century and which in its architecture, was an interesting construction of Byelorussian classicism. The Germans also destroyed there, in the town of Vitebsk, a roman-catholic church which was built in the 16th century.

The Germans burnt in the town of Disna, in the Polotsk region, a roman-catholic church founded in the 17th century and plundered the property which it contained.

Timosner Rudolf, the German Garrison Commandent of the town of Kozmiatov, in the Stanislav region, used three synagogues for barracks and later on destroyed the buildings after having plundered the property contained in these synagogues.

In the same way the German garrison which was quartered there burnt three synagogues in the village of Dunilovich, in the Polotzk region.

The Germans in destroying ecclesiastical buildings plundered and destroyed all their property they contained. A great quantity of icons and church-plate was removed to Germany from ecclesiastical buildings.

The Iossifo-Volokolamsky monastery was plundered and the ancient shrouds of the monastery and thepersonal belongings of Joseph Wolotsky, the founder of the monastery, have disappeared.

The Germans tore off the gold plate from the icons of the Tikhvinsky monastery, removed the silver, the velvet and the veils, and stole the best vestments. From the Uspensky church of the same monastery 3 oval and two guilded silver icons from the iconostasis were stolen.

In 1941 German soldiers and officers stole from the Steritzki Church all the vessels, alter crosses, crowns, miters, and tabernacles,

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The Germans looted and took away all the property of the local mosque in Dokshitz, a town in the Polotzk region.

The same fate was shared by nearly all the churches in the territory occupied by the Germans.

Everywhere did the Germans plunder greek-orthodox and roman-catholic churches, synagogues, mosques and other ecclesiastical buildings. The hitlerite conspirators did not only actually plunder, torture and murder, but they also tried to humiliate believers morally, to rob them of spiritual riches.

VI. C O N C L U S I O N :

May it please Your Honors, this is the documentary evidence concerning the crimes against culture, which were committed by Rosenberg, Frank, Goering, Ribbentrop, Keitel and the other members of the conspiracy.

The consequences of the crimes committed by the defendants against culture are truly horrible.

The towns and villages destroyed by the hitlerites can with great difficulty be rebuilt. It is possible also to restore the factories and the plants which were blown up and burnt by them. But mankind has lost for ever the unique objects of art which the hitlerites barbarically destroyed; they are lost as the lives of those millions of people are lost whom they had put to death in Auschwitz and in Treblinka, in Babiy-Yar and in Kerch.

Having taken their fascism theories from the dark ages of the past, the sons of to-day have put into the shade the blackest pages of history by their appalling cruelty and vandalism.

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Having arrogantly challanged the future of mankind, they trampled underfoot the best heritage of the past.

Having no ideals or faith themselves, they sacrilegiously destroyed churches and relics.

In the unprecedented struggle between culture and obscurantism, between civilization and barbarism, culture and civilization were victorious.

The Hitlerite conspirators who dreamt of world domination, of the destruction of the culture of the Slav and other peoples, are now in the dock.

May a well-deserved punishment be theirs !

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